

Hafa Adai!

Belacora is ARFF's honorary firefighter. **PAGE 2**

Bangladeshi found removable brings case to US Supreme Court. **PAGE 3**

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## ON EX-ARMY RANGER'S CHALLENGE TO CONSTITUTIONALITY OF SAFE ACT

# OAG: Ban on assault rifles, \$1K tax on handguns constitutional

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

**T**he ban on assault rifles and the \$1,000 tax on handguns in the CNMI as well as other provisions in the newly enacted law, Special Act for Firearms and Enforcement, are constitutional, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

Assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington asserted that the ban on assault rifles in the Commonwealth survives intermediate scrutiny because the CNMI has a significant, substantial, and important interest in public safety, and there is a reasonable fit between the ban on assault rifles and protecting public safety.

Brasington argued that the \$1,000

tax on pistols is constitutional because it is a legitimate use of the Commonwealth's unique ability under the Covenant to control its own customs territory.

Brasington explained the constitutionality of SAFE provisions in a cross motion for summary judgment filed on Thursday in federal

**See OAG on Page 4**

Torres says they continue to encourage feds on CW fixes

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**  
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres says they continue to encourage federal immigration officials to address immediate fixes to the effects on businesses and foreign



Torres

**See TORRES on Page 4**



JON PEREZ

The Matua Riders kicked things off in the 71st Liberation Day Parade yesterday. Right, a B-52 Stratofortress bomber flies by as part of the festivities of yesterday's Liberation Day Parade.

## Community enjoys longest LibDay Parade

By **JON PEREZ**  
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REPORTER

The roaring sounds of motorcycles ridden by the Matua Riders caught the attention of the crowd that lined up along Beach Road, signaling the start of the 71st CNMI Liberation Day Parade—the biggest party and community event in the Commonwealth.

The Matua Riders came out in full force on their Harley Davidson motorcycles while some chose to join on their big bikes or ATVs in yesterday's

**See PARADE on Page 4**



## INSIDE



### LOCAL

For businessman Adonis Ibanez Santos, obtaining U.S. citizenship means he can now travel everywhere and do whatever he wants like any other American.

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### NATION

From fireworks soaring above the Washington Monument to hot dogs being downed in New York City's famed frank-eating contest, Americans aren't shy about celebrating their nation's birthday.

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### OVERDRIVE

BMW's Mini division has always delivered on the promise of cute and cuddly, but for 2016 it has added cozy and comfortable as well.

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## Local

# Belacora is ARFF's honorary firefighter

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Judging by the smile on B.J. Belacora's face, he has enjoyed his little field trip at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport where he saw the inside of an airplane cockpit, toured the Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting station, and rode one of their fire engines.

Belacora experienced all of those things last Friday afternoon as the Make-A-Wish Foundation helped turn the 6-year-old's wish into fruition with the help of the Commonwealth Ports Authority and ARFF. He has a heart ailment with a pacemaker placed in his chest.

ARFF acting fire chief William C. Camacho and CPA acting executive director Christopher Tenorio made Belacora an honorary ARFF firefighter by awarding him certificates and medals in a simple ceremony attended by ARFF personnel and the Belacora family.

ARFF stations in Guam and Pohnpei, when they heard about Belacora's condition, also sent their respective certificates. ARFF CNMI also gave a banner to the Belacora family wishing them all the best and B.J. to fully recover from his condition.

Corazon Belacora, B.J.'s mother, said her son was born with the heart condition where he underwent an eight-hour operation in San Diego exactly eight days after he was born. "He already had six sur-



JON PEREZ

The Belacora family, center, and ARFF firefighters led by acting fire chief William C. Camacho, left.

geries and has a pacemaker."

"Now, he's growing up to be a normal kid a lot has changed. He can now walk and play without easily getting tired. We're thankful for all the people who made this happen. It really hurts for me, as a mother, that I can't give all that he wanted," said Corazon, who works at I Fashion.

She said that her son really likes firetrucks and even talked of becoming a fireman someday. "There are times that he could not sleep immediately and he would tell me that he wanted to be a fireman and save lives someday."

"He's still young, he can be whatever he wants. Hopefully his condition improves," added Corazon, who said that her son's next scheduled check up is later this year while his pacemaker is good for 10 years.

B.J. also received school supplies as he is set to enter first grade at the Garapan Elementary School. Among the other gifts are an iPad Air and three iPad minis for his siblings Lea, Jazz, and J.R. Their father, Eduardo, takes care of B.J. at home.

Make-A-Wish Foundation executive director Victor P. Camacho thanked the CPA and ARFF for helping them in granting B.J.'s wish. "Partners like them help us in granting the wishes of the kids. We thank everyone at the CPA and ARFF for answering our request."

Camacho added that this was the second wish that they granted on Saipan this year with another one happening in less than two weeks. Jasmine Guanzon, who is suffering from papillary carcinoma, had her wish of seeing her mother



JON PEREZ

B.J. Belacora, right, smiles for photographers along with ARFF acting fire chief William C. Camacho.



JON PEREZ

B.J. Belacora prepares to taste his cake shaped like a fire hat.

who works in Hong Kong granted early this year.

Triple J Wholesale donated fruits, Sweet Escape gave a cake in a shape of a fire hat and cupcakes, while the sandwiches that were served

came from Pacific Islands Club, which also presented a weekend stay at the resort and waterpark passes to the Belcora family. Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) donated water.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Newlyweds Larry and Sonora Santiago held their wedding reception at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe last June 23. Well wishes from your friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Ding Aquino celebrated his 68th last July 3 at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe. Birthday greetings from your friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



JON PEREZ

Firefighter Augustine Diaz assists B.J. Belacora in riding a firetruck.



# Bangladeshi found removable brings case to US Supreme Court

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Mohammad A. Bashar, a Bangladeshi who was found removable from the U.S. or the CNMI based on his conviction for marriage fraud, has brought his case to the U.S. Supreme Court as he insisted that he was innocent of the charges and that he was provided ineffective assistance of counsel.

Bashar, through counsel Janet H. King, has filed a petition for a writ of certiorari that requests the U.S. Supreme Court to review and reverse the judgment and order denying his petition for rehearing in this matter.

To appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, a petitioner applies to the U.S. high court for such writ of certiorari.

The CNMI high court affirmed a trial court's order denying Bashar's motion for rehearing, holding the motion was untimely and failed to establish ineffective assistance of counsel.

In his declaration in support of his motion for petition for writ, Bashar said he first arrived on Saipan in March 1997 and that he married Jayna Lynn Taitano in March 2009 because he loves her and that he wanted to take care of her.

Bashar said Taitano's former boyfriend is the person he believes who intimidated and coerced his wife in making a charge of marriage fraud.

In Bashar's petition to the U.S. high court, King said while the CNMI has been part of the United States family since 1976 through mutual agreement, federal immigration law only became applicable to the CNMI recently, starting in 2009.

King said because the CNMI was not subject to federal immigration laws until just a few years ago, criminal defense attorneys in the CNMI have little or no familiarity with U.S. immigration laws.

As a result, King said, criminal defendants in the CNMI are likely to receive no advice or incorrect advice about the immigration consequences of their criminal convictions.

"This is such a case," the lawyer said.

According to court documents, in March 2009, the CNMI government filed a criminal case charging Bashar and his wife, Taitano, with conspiracy to commit marriage fraud and marriage fraud.

Attorney Edward C. Arriola represented Bashar in the criminal case.

King said that on Feb. 10, 2011, based on Arriola's advice, Bashar pleaded "no con-

test" to marriage fraud. The trial court accepted his plea.

Prior to entering the plea, King said, Bashar maintained that Arriola did not inform him that the plea would subject him to automatic deportation.

Instead, King said, Arriola represented to and assured Bashar that so long as he paid a \$2,000 fine, he would not be deported as a result of his guilty plea.

Based on Arriola's assurance, King said, Bashar believed that deportation would not be a consequence of his plea.

King said Bashar would not have been correctly advised that his conviction would result in automatic deportation.

In March 2011, Bashar was served with a notice to appear by U.S. Immigration authorities, charging him with removability based on the conviction for marriage fraud.

Bashar retained another lawyer, Stephen Woodruff.

King said it was not until one of the hearings, where a Bengali interpreter was provided, that Bashar learned that his conviction was one of the grounds for the removal proceedings.

On Jan. 12, 2012, the immigration judge found Bashar to be removable based on the conviction for marriage fraud.

King said Woodruff began appeal proceedings on behalf of Bashar, but never filed the appeal brief.

The Board of Immigration Appeals dismissed the appeal. King said Woodruff was subsequently disbarred by the CNMI Supreme Court.

On Jan. 10, 2013, Bashar filed a motion to set aside the plea and vacate the conviction to correct the manifest injustice resulting from the ineffective assistance of counsel.

In particular, Bashar maintained that Arriola had failed to advise him that his plea would subject him to mandatory deportation.

Bashar said that had Arriola properly advised him, he would not have entered a plea and would have insisted on a trial. The defendant maintained that he was factually innocent of marriage fraud.

Bashar said his witnesses were unable to testify because the trial court refused an evidentiary hearing.

Arriola and his employees claimed that he advised Bashar that he "would" eventually be deported by U.S. Immigration authorities as a result of his plea.

However, King said, the plea agreement entered on Feb. 10, 2011, states only that Arriola advised Bashar about the potential immigration consequences that "may or may

not occur."

The Superior Court denied the motion without conducting an evidentiary hearing. The court concluded that Bashar's motion was untimely and he did not establish that his prior counsel was ineffective.

Bashar appealed the denial of the motion to vacate to the CNMI Supreme Court.

But the CNMI high court affirmed, holding that the trial court did not err in finding Bashar's motion untimely or in refusing to hold an evidentiary hearing, and Bashar did not show ineffective assis-

tance of counsel.

The CNMI high court also denied Bashar's petition for rehearing.

King said the CNMI Supreme Court's decision contravenes its decision in Padilla v. Kentucky case requiring defense counsel to advise criminal defendants of the clear immigration consequences of guilty pleas.

King said since this is the first decision of the CNMI Supreme Court applying Padilla, and given that immigration laws have only just become applicable to the CNMI, this case presents an issue of great

public importance for the CNMI.

In Padilla, the U.S. Supreme Court held that a guilty plea should be set aside if counsel misinformed the defendant of the immigration consequences of the conviction.

Prior to Padilla, King said, the CNMI Supreme Court has "consistently held that an attorney is not obligated to inform a client of potential immigration consequences..."

King said the CNMI Supreme Court's decision contravenes the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court requiring

an evidentiary hearing where a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, if proven, would warrant relief and the records and files cannot conclusively resolve the issue.

King said the CNMI Supreme Court compounded the error here by holding that Bashar was not entitled to an evidentiary hearing on his motion to set aside the plea.

King said the CNMI Supreme Court erred and violated Bashar's due process rights and right to effective assistance of counsel in holding that Bashar's motion was untimely.

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## PARADE

From Page 1

parade, which could be the longest in the history of the annual event.

Except for two incidents where two CNMI JROTC members fainted, the parade went on smoothly. The Japanese Society of Saipan again carried the banner asking the community for any information about missing sisters Natsumi and Chinatsu Yamada.

CNMI Liberation Day parade and float subcommittee chair Joe Palacios said they finally heaved a sigh of relief as it didn't rain. There was a weather disturbance south of the CNMI, in Guam, that could have brought rain.

"One thing that we are thankful for is it is really a nice day. There was no rain just cloudy, which is a beautiful weather for the parade," said Palacios.

"We thank the whole community, from those who were involved and helped in the planning to those who came



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Imperial Pacific International Holdings majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie, and Best Sunshine International, Ltd. chief executive officer Mark Brown met at the starting point of the CNMI 71st Liberation Day Parade yesterday morning.

out to cheer everyone and celebrate with us. This could have been the longest since there are more participants this year," added Palacios.

Midway through the parade, the crowd erupted in cheers and applause after a B-52 Stratofortress bomber made a flyby. The United States Army Band also marched in the parade, while war veterans were on board two military trucks. Visiting delegates from Korea

and Japan also joined in the festivities.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang thanked Joint Region Marianas Commander Rear Admiral Bette Bolivar for making the flyby happen. "People enjoyed today's festivities especially the flyby. We thank Admiral Bolivar for making that possible. Thank you too to the Army band for coming out."

"Our friends from Korea

and Japan came all the way out here to participate in the parade. I personally wanted to thank all participants, the businesses, individuals, and the families that supported us in this event."

Apatang added that this is also the first time in the parade that a lot of government departments and agencies participated. "Thank you too to Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and Lt. Gov. [Victor B.] Hocog

for supporting us and making sure the departments and other agencies come out."

Torres said the parade showed how diverse the community in the CNMI is now. "We appreciate the diversity that we have in our islands. Celebrating July 4 gives us the freedom to enjoy such diversity."

"This parade would be the longest and probably one of the most beautiful weather that we had in a long time. It was cloudy and not that hot, importantly no rain. I'm glad everyone came out to watch and enjoy the festivities."

CNMI Liberation Day Queen Christine Roque, Royal Princess Coryn A. Achas, and First Princess Cornessa M. Dela Cruz said yesterday's event is the community's way of giving thanks to the people who fought to enjoy the freedom that we enjoy today.

"It is our way of honoring the history of our islands. People get to celebrate freely and the way they want to thanks to those who fought to give us the freedom that we enjoy today," said Roque, who joined

the Royal Court in stopping for a while at the 13 Fishermen Monument to lay flowers.

"To me this is the day when Camp Susupe was opened for the people to live freely," said Acahas.

"This is the time where we come all together to celebrate," added Dela Cruz.

Liberation Day executive committee chair Chris Leon Guerrero, Liberation Day non-profit group president Louis Rogers, Japan Consul Toshio Matsumura and his wife Kiyoko, Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Eli Arago, Korean Association president Hong Kyun Kim, Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Antonio Tudela, vice chair Alice Igitol, and Sec. Lareina Camacho were some of the VIPs who joined the parade.

Rain cancelled last night's fireworks and it will be held on Saturday, the closing of the carnival.

Organizers said the list of winners of the float competition was not available as of press time.

## OAG

From Page 1

court by Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero and Department of Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

Guerrero and Larson filed the motion in response U.S. Army veteran Paul M. Murphy's lawsuit that challenged the constitutionality of some provisions of SAFE, which extensively revised the gun control laws of the CNMI.

Murphy argued, among other things, that the enforcement of some provisions in the SAFE Act and CNMI Weapons Control Act has and continues to violate his Second and 14th Amendment rights.

Murphy argued that the Commonwealth infringes upon his Second Amendment rights by restricting the possession and importation of long guns of calibers greater than .22, .223, and .410, and by requiring the registration of firearms and firearm owners.

Murphy also argued that the other violations of his Second Amendment rights are banning the possession of "assault rifles"; banning large capacity magazines; requiring unattended firearms in the home to be locked in a safe; requiring firearms to be transported unloaded and separate from ammunition; and imposing a \$1,000 excise tax on every handgun imported into the CNMI.

In Guerrero's and Larson's motion for summary judgment, Brasington said intermediate scrutiny applies to the ban on "assault rifles" as defined by SAFE.

Brasington said the ban on assault rifles impinges upon the rights protected by the Second Amendment.

The AAG said rather than banning all semiautomatics, or semiautomatic rifles, the legislature banned a subset of semiautomatic rifles above .223 caliber with enumerated military-style alterations.

On the \$1,000 tax issue, Brasington said the tax is primarily revenue generating

and is made for the express purpose of funding a study on the increased costs associated with the introduction of handguns into the Commonwealth.

Brasington said although the tax may have an incidental deterrent effect, the U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held that this is acceptable.

He pointed out that courts do not look at the Legislature's motive in passing a tax.

"Although there are some limitations on the power of taxation, none are implicated here," he said.

Brasington said to the extent the federal court reviews the measure under the Second Amendment, which it should not, the taxation of firearms falls outside the scope of the Second Amendment because there is a long and pervasive history of the U.S. taxing firearms that are imported into its borders.

Brasington said the \$1,000 tax on firearms is a constitutional exercise of the Commonwealth's taxation power.

He said the tax is legitimate

because the primary goal of the tax is to generate revenue to deal with the costs associated with the introduction of handguns.

Specifically, he said, the tax is meant to provide interim funding to the agencies that will be most affected by the introduction of handguns, and to update government buildings with security systems such as metal detectors.

On the storage provisions issue, Brasington said the evidence is clear: locking up guns while unattended reduces the number of incidents of accidental shootings and reduces the risk of theft.

On caliber restriction, Brasington said the SAFE's caliber restriction is constitutional because it survives intermediate scrutiny.

As to the issue of ban on large capacity magazines (LCMs), Brasington said such ban survives intermediate scrutiny because the Commonwealth has a significant, substantial, and important interest in public safety; and

there is a reasonable fit between the ban on LCMs and protecting public safety.

Brasington said the goal is restricting LCMs is to protect public safety by reducing the number of rounds that a shooter can use in a firefight.

The AAG said the parties' stipulated expert, police officer David Hosono, testified that the concerns of LCM from a law enforcement perspective is the ability of an active shooter to fire more rounds without reloading, and thereby endangering more lives.

In his pro se lawsuit or without a lawyer, Murphy asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue a preliminary and permanent injunctions enjoining DPS Commissioner Guerrero from enforcing against him the firearms and ammunition storage restrictions and the prohibition on obtaining, owning, and possessing ammunition feeding devices of more than 10 rounds.

Murphy also asked the court to enjoin the ban on firearms in calibers other than .22 cali-

ber rimfire, .22 caliber center fire, .223 caliber center-fire, and shotguns other than those in .410 gauge defined as "assault weapon[s]," and the firearms and ammunition licensing and registration schemes.

The plaintiff asked the court to enjoin Finance Secretary Larson from authorizing and enforcing against him the withholding of his prohibited items currently being held in DPS custody, the ban on the importation of his personal firearms currently being held in Guam, and any further provisions in the SAFE Act.

Murphy alleged that DPS withheld all his firearms and ammunition until the issuance of a firearms, ammunition, and explosive identification card on Sept. 20, 2007.

He said his two firearms were sent to Guam Police Department armory for holding, while the ammunition is being held by the CNMI DPS Firearms Section. He said DPS has denied his repeated requests to carry and possess his rifle and pistol.

## TORRES

From Page 1

workers with a breached cap on contract workers this fiscal year.

In an interview last week, the governor said he has met with several businesses recently and they echoed numerous concerns that the capping on contract workers "hampers our economic growth."

"Because without labor you cannot have growth," he said. "So we are encouraging the USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) and work with them to continue to look at the immediate solution because we have im-

mediate impact that is happening now, we continue to experience that."

About 1,300 affected foreign workers who've had their petitions rejected due to the breached capped of 12,999 have been leaving or are expected to leave the Commonwealth before the end of the fiscal year.

During a presentation last week, Department of Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero—representing Torres—shared some of the "administrative fixes" or short term Torres and his team proposed to federal counterparts in trip to Washington, D.C. earlier last month.

Among others, they rec-

ommended that USCIS allow affected CW-1 workers to remain lawfully in the CNMI until Oct. 1, 2016, the start of the new fiscal year and when their employer may submit a new petition on their behalf.

This can be done in two ways: USCIS may establish a "cap-gap" relief system to affected contract workers, patterned after the cap-gap program used for F1 visas transiting to the H1-B visa program.

Using its discretion under immigration law, federal officials could grant on a case-by-case basis to certain individuals to apply for the cap-gap.

The CNMI also recommended that the federal gov-

ernment use its discretionary authority to grant humanitarian parole or parole in place on a case-by-case basis to affected CW workers, to address the humanitarian issue of separating families.

The CNMI recommended that USCIS recalculate the 2016 cap to adjust available permits for 2016 to 13,998.

The CNMI also asked that contract workers be given additional time to leave, or more than the 10 days given after their permit expires.

The CNMI also recommended that a two-track system be developed in processing permits that prioritizes renewals over new applications, with quota reserved for

eligible and long-term CW-1 workers.

The CNMI also recommended that they allow Chinese nationals to submit H2-B visa petitions. Right now, China is not a treaty country under the program and a Saipan casino, Best Sunshine International, Ltd., has shown a preference for hiring these contract workers, in the thousands, under the contact worker program, eating a huge amount of quota space that could have gone to long-term workers in the Commonwealth.

The CNMI also recommended long-term recommendations including permanent status for long-term guest

workers in the CNMI, better federal-CNMI cooperation and data sharing, entering in a MOU to provide the CNMI with Earned Income Tax Credits to incentivize movement into the workforce, and to support legislation by U.S. delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to extend the contract worker program, a transition program set to expire in 2019, to 2029 with an option to grant an additional five-year extension after a 2027 review.

The legislation would also increase the CW cap to 18,000, which is 4,000 permits less than the available permits at the start of the transition period, or CW program.



## Senate moves new Tinian public highway bill forward

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**  
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REPORTER

The Senate last month passed a bill to establish a new public highway on Tinian meant to provide more access for economic development around the southern and eastern side of the island.

The Senate unanimously passed Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider's (R-Tinian) Senate Bill 19-94, which now heads to the House, and establishes a new public highway, Route 205, on Tinian.

The bill aims to establish a new public highway, mandate the designation of public lands for a new public highway to include access to fishing and hunting areas and public safety and emergency

response; and to prioritize the design and construction of this highway within the Capital Improvement Project Office and Department of Public Work's federal high funds program.

According to the Senate standing committee report on the bill, the limited lane on Tinian as a result of two-thirds of it being leased to the U.S. military, greatly affects the island's ability to develop new homestead or agricultural projects.

Moreover, senators say that a majority of all developments and homesteads have been established at the east and south side of the island, with most development limited to San Jose Village and surrounding ar-

reas because of lack of available land and public highways around the southern and eastern end of island.

"In order to create more economic opportunities and establish new developments on Tinian, it is essential to create new public highways on the southern and eastern side of Tinian," the committee report states. "A new public highway will ultimately provide safe and efficient transportation from Route 300 South down to Puntan Carolinas and up through Puntan Kastiyu and Puntan Pina Plateaus and further up to Puntan Barangka to Puntan Masalog and Puntan Asiga until the highway connects to Broadway on the northern part of Tinian."

## Santos' bill to regulate lime passes Senate

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Senate passed a bill late last month to regulate the manufacturing of lime, or *afok* or *bweesch*, by including these under the Pure Food and Drug Control Act.

Senate Bill 19-97 is authored by Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) and includes lime into current law that guides the handling and

manufacturing of food.

"The Commonwealth Legislature recognizes that the prevalence of oral cancer in the CNMI has increased substantially. Although *afok* or *bweesch* may not have a direct link to oral cancer or other deadly diseases, the Commonwealth Legislature finds that there is a great need to protect the people until concrete studies are done," the bill states.

The ingredients in lime have changed over time, the bill states, with ingredients for lime in the past obtained from coral before inception of public law to oversee and regulate the use of coastal resources.

An earlier version of the bill had been vetoed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in April over errors in sentential structure that would have rendered a provision requiring food handling permits moot.

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Public Area Attendant	60	Cage Cashier	8	Runner	10	Commis I - Chinese Cuisines	14
Manager - Wardrobe	1	Count Cashier	3	Chef de Cuisine - Buffet & All Day Dining	1	Steward Manager	1
Wardrobe Attendant	20	Food & Beverage	1	Chef de Cuisine - Cantonese Restaurant	1	Stewards	30
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### NEW FIREFIGHTERS

The 11th Fire Cycle graduating class poses for a group photo after their graduation last Friday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. A total of 38 fire cadets—26 from Saipan, six from Tinian, and six from Rota—graduated from the academy.

THOMAS LEE A. MANGLONA II

## Final day to sign up for CW survey on Saturday

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The ongoing survey for long-time nonresidents in the CW program will have its final day on Saturday, July 9. Members of the United Filipino Organization will be at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza starting at 8am and will be there until there are CW workers coming in to sign up.

Lito Marquez, the one in charge of getting the details, said it was Department of Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regional director David Gulick who asked for the details.

"We're not doing this because we want to but it was Ms. Kia'aina and Mr. Gulick who asked that we gather data and details of all guest workers. This was discussed during their [separate] meetings last month at the House of Repre-

sentatives and the Governor's Office," said Marquez.

UFO president Bong Mala-sarte was among those invited in both meetings along with other business and community leaders.

As of last Saturday, July 2, they already collected 28 pages of information from more than 1,000 guest workers here in the CNMI. Majority of those who signed in their survey are guest workers who have been working in the Commonwealth for more than 10 years.

Marquez added that they are assigned to gather the information from the Filipino community. Other nationalities have been doing their own surveys. "Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, Nepalese, and Bangladeshis have their own information gathering campaigns."

He said that despite each having their own respective signups, they also accommodate other nationalities who arrive at the former Nauru Building. "But we get their information and they sign up in a separate form."

It was the third Saturday that Marquez and other UFO volunteers have been conducting the survey and information gathering. They will have to transfer all the data collected to an electronic file on or before the July 10 deadline.

All workers—whether in hotels, construction, etc.—are welcome to sign up and take the survey. There were also other individuals who helped them by taking survey forms and sign up sheets to their friends and acquaintances.

"We expect those individuals to give us the information either this Saturday or before," said Marquez.

## Torres meets with officials of First Net

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, along with officials in charge of the CNMI's first responders, met with officials to discuss FirstNet, a program which aims to create a broadband network dedicated specifically for public safety.

First Net is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. It can install a faster and much more reliable Internet data services for first responders in the CNMI to provide a backbone and allow for improved communications by carrying high-speed data, location information, images and streaming videos even during a calamity or a disaster situation.

The proposal includes the

design, construction and operation of a nationwide, interoperable, public safety broadband network, but the exact cost has yet to be determined.

First Net, in partnership with U.S. Homeland Security, has prepared a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement or PEIS and is seeking public comments before it can proceed with the billion-dollar project.

First Net facilitators Robert Scinta and Andy Bielakowski and Environmental Resources Management facilitators Andrew Dewitt and Steve Roster were on island recently for a scheduled public meeting on the Draft PEIS. (PR)

## Guam governor vetoes higher smoking age

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—People can still buy tobacco in Guam at 18 after the U.S. territory's governor vetoed a bill that would have raised the age limit to 21.

Legislators voted 9-6 to approve a measure increasing the legal age to buy tobacco products and use electronic

cigarettes, the *Pacific Daily News* reported.

But Gov. Eddie Calvo vetoed the legislation last week, calling the measure vague and unenforceable.


"As adults, we each have the right to make our own individual life choices, even if that choice is bad for our health,"

Calvo said in his veto letter. "And it's our personal responsibility to live with whatever choice we ultimately make."


Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz authored Guam's measure and said in a statement that he's hoping to get the 10 votes needed to override the veto.

"Cigarettes turn choice into a lifelong addiction funded by taxpayers—many of whom never smoked a day in their lives," Cruz said in a news release. "When it costs 40 times more to treat a smoker than a nonsmoker, it isn't about choice. It's about saving lives, saving dollars, and saving valuable public resources."

Some U.S. states have limited tobacco sales to people who are at least 21. Hawaii was the first, with a law that went into effect in January. California followed.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
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## INVITATION TO BID

### NMHC IFB 2016-016

*This ad is paid for with HUD funds.*

#### Cleaning Services for NMHC's Central Office (Saipan)

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested licensed companies to provide cleaning services for NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning **July 5, 2016** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays.

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in 2005-2148 for the Mariana Islands.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **9:00 a.m. on July 11, 2016**, at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2016-016**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (Former EMO Office), Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, July 21, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, July 21, 2016** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than **July 21, 2016**. AND the ITB documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive no later than **August 1, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m., local time, August 2, 2016**. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time, July 21, 2016**.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest.

For information, contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

/s/ **Ignacio L. Perez**  
NMHC Board Vice Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**  
Division of Procurement & Supply

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

**Graphic Designer (1)**  
Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related field. Minimum of 3 years work experience doing computer graphics and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be familiar with offset printing process, computer peripherals, and Mac operating system. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, weekends, and holidays, depending on demand.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, July 15, 2016.

*Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.*



# Woman suffers multiple injuries in domestic violence

A woman suffered multiple injuries when her boyfriend allegedly beat her up by slapping, punching, and kicking her in front of her two minor daughters during their argument at her apartment unit on Saipan last week. He also allegedly slapped one of the two girls on the face for trying to stop him from beating her mother.

When a police officer re-

sponded to the apartment, he observed the two girls, ages 10 and 12 years old, crying and appeared scared and nervous.

Eric Lee Nekaifes, 38, was arrested that same night on charges of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, interfering with a domestic violence report, and child abuse.

The girlfriend suffered bruises on the shins and thighs,

scratches on the left knee, black eyes, and a small cut to the lower lip. The 10-year-old girl had no visible injuries on the forehead, police said.

At a hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on Nekaifes and set the preliminary hearing for July 7 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark was appointed as counsel for Nekaifes.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

Police Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that Nekaifes slapped a lighted cigarette out of his girlfriend's left hand while she and her two daughters were in the living room on Wednesday night.

The report did not indicate whether the minors are biological daughters of Nekaifes.

An argument ensued and

the girlfriend told Nekaifes to get out of her apartment. He then allegedly slapped her twice with his open left palm on the face.

The girlfriend got up from the couch and attempted to use the phone by the bedroom to call the police, but he prevented her by pushing her back.

The 10-year-old daughter went close to her mother and shouted at Nekaifes to stop slapping her mother. Nekaifes, however, allegedly slapped the girl's face.

Nekaifes then slapped his girlfriend, causing her head

to bump the 10-year-old daughter's forehead. The girl got scared, ran out of the house, and proceeded to walk across the street, where she asked their neighbor to call the police.

Nekaifes allegedly continued the beating of the victim by grabbing her in a headlock and repeatedly punching her on the face. At one point, he tried to bang the girlfriend's head on the floor.

The girlfriend managed to get free from the headlock, but Nekaifes started kicking her on the legs. The girlfriend was able to escape by walking out to the back of the house. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Small craft advisory in effect until this morning

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has issued a small craft advisory that will remain in effect until 6am today, July 5. He is advising the general public and inexperienced mariners—especially those operating smaller vessels—to avoid navigating in these conditions and take extra precautionary measures on entering and leaving harbor and inlets.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service, Tiyan Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center, fresh to strong winds are expected through Tuesday and

combined seas of 7 to 11 feet yesterday will fall to between 6 and 8 feet last night. Meanwhile, isolated thunderstorms are expected the next few days, with scattered showers today and tonight as Nepartak passes by.

Tropical storm Nepartak was expected to move northwest and pass Southwest of Guam yesterday afternoon.

East winds of 20 to 25 kt are expected through last night. Combined seas of 7 and 11 feet today will decrease to 5 to 8 feet last night. These conditions will be hazardous for operators of small craft. (*PR*)

## Nepartak intensifying into a typhoon, but moves away from Guam

Tropical Storm Nepartak was intensifying into a typhoon, but was moving away from Guam yesterday.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam, as of 2pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Storm Nepartak was 175 miles north-northeast of Fais, 200 miles northeast of Ulithi, 290 miles northeast of Yap, and 240 miles west-

southwest of Guam.

Packing maximum sustained winds at 50 miles per hour, with tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 100 miles from the center, Nepartak was moving northwest at 16mph.

Nepartak is expected to intensify steadily in the next few days and may become a typhoon by early morning today, Tuesday. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at the Office of Pupil Transportation Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan.

### AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes
    - a. May 31, 2016 Regular Board Meeting
    - b. June 15, 2016 FPA Committee Meeting
- II. Public Comments<sup>1</sup>
- III. Reports
  1. Chair
  2. Board Committees
    - a. FPA
    - b. ISA
    - c. SICPP
  3. Commissioner of Education
    - a. Financial Status Reports
      - i. Federal
      - ii. Local
    - b. Head Start Program
    - c. Others
- IV. Unfinished Business
- V. New Business
  1. Head Start Program
    - a. Supplemental Duration Grant Application
    - b. Supplemental Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) Funding
  2. Proposed Regulations as Final
    - a. Travel
    - b. Pay Differential
  3. MOU on Hard-to-Fill Positions
  4. Certification and Licensure Recommendations
    - a. CLO Report No. 2016-006
    - b. CLO Report No. 2016-007
- VI. Executive Session<sup>2</sup>
  1. Legal Updates
  2. Personnel/Certification
  3. Other matters
- VII. Administrative Matters
- VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
- IX. Adjournment

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to DOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

# 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT

## July 9 & 10, 2016

**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**

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# LibDay Festivities getting international exposure, attracting tourists

The 2016 Liberation Day festival grounds continue to lift the spirit of the Liberation Day as we approach the midway of the monthlong 2016 Liberation Day Festivities. Skywalker Communication Group, in cooperation with the Saipan Mayor's Office and Liberation Day committee, continues to live up to the high expectations by providing non-stop entertainment every night at the Garapan Fishing Base.

This year's Liberation Day Festivities is not only bringing joy to the people of the CNMI, but also showing the world the vast resources that the island has for new businesses to grow. All of these are achieved by Skywalker Communications, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and the Liberation Day Committee, a non-profit organization. The overall expenditure for the event is almost completely coming from Skywalker Communications, which has gladly invested for the community, even though knowing there is no margin for profit. "We understand that this is a non-profit event. We never saw this event as a business opportunity," Skywalker Communications president Dr. Bo Hu explained, "We understand the importance of the culture of the CNMI and we want the world to know more about these beautiful islands. That is our aim. This event gives us an opportunity to give something back to the community, for welcoming us on this island and making us feel at home" Dr. Bo also mentioned that the income from game booth tokens and raffle

draw tickets are being reinvested on the event, in order to make sure the Liberation Day events are operated smoothly.

The 2016 Liberation Festivities was destined to be a memorable one, with some record-breaking achievements. This year, 26 beautiful Royal Court candidates are competing to be 2016 Miss CNMI Liberation Queen, more than any other years. Their determination to succeed and their dedication to represent their community and culture, which was beautifully portrayed at their opening day pageant routine, were truly mesmerizing to watch. In addition to that, over 60 volunteers have signed up to help organize the event, another milestone achieved by the organizers.

"The volunteers have been ever present at the fishing base since the opening day" said Levonne Pangelinan, Project assistant of Skywalker Communications and volunteer coordinator for the Liberation Day Festivities, "Without their support and their dedication, this event wouldn't have been as successful as it is now." Additionally, volunteers have undergone various skills-based training, such as photography, entertainment management, videography, creative writing, web community management, stage light and sound engineering, a great initiative taken by Skywalker Communications to develop the youth of this society.

Meanwhile, the festival grounds have witnessed a radical increase in the number of audiences attending the Lib-

eration Day event compared to last year. The opening day performances were an instant hit, attracting thousands of people across the island. The introduction of the gaming booths added an extra attraction for the families. Every day parents are bringing their children after work to play the games, have tasty meals, as well as watch live cultural performances and music at the Fishing Base. Credit goes to Gordon Marciano for arranging the amazing entertainment lineups, as well as the hardworking stage crew of Skywalker Communications, who have been working tirelessly backstage to highlight the wonderful performances.

Anticipating a rise in audience this year, Skywalker Communications had set two big LED screens beside the stage, so that audiences can enjoy performances even when they were far away from the stage. "I am really loving the stage setup and the LED screen" said Joleen, a mother. "This is the third time I came here, because my kids love the games and I am really enjoying the performances on stage. The LED screens allow me to stay close to my kids while they play as well as watch the performances on the screen."

Dr. Bo envisioned the Liberation Day Festivities to not only bring joy to the local community, but also be a

source of attraction for tourists to visit the island and attend the events. "I think The Liberation Day Festivities also serves as a platform for tourists to witness the truly beautiful and rich culture of the CNMI, the culture that I fell in love with," said Dr. Bo, "keeping that in mind, we decided to live broadcast the Liberation Day performances on our Liberation Day Facebook page, so that people from other parts of the world can watch the incredible performances and be inspired from it. Credit goes to one of our principal sponsors, IT&E, for arranging the live broadcasts." The idea of live broadcasting was widely acknowledged by the

viewers. People from Guam, Tinian, Rota, and even from the mainland, who couldn't come to Saipan, could watch the performances live on the Facebook page. "We are watching you guys live all the way from Guahan," said Ton-Mona Santos, mother of Royal Court candidate Kaylanie Santos, after the opening day. "Bummed that we are not there to attend the actual event, missing home. Thanks for the update." Skywalker Communications' Liberation Day page and the live feeds have reached over 75,000 people all across the world, an excellent exposure which will help boost the tourism industry on Saipan. (PR)

## Liberation Day goes live on social media

Since the opening night on June 10, the 2016 CNMI Liberation Day Festivities has been the main venue for the Saipan's nightly entertainment. However, live entertainment from the Liberation Day Festivities is not just for Saipan, but also for the communities of the neighboring islands as well as the locals residing in the mainland. This is another groundbreaking achievement inspired by Skywalker Communications Group, in cooperation with the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Liberation Day Committee with assistance from IT&E.

This year, Skywalker Communications has decided to live broadcast the performances and event at the festival grounds for the first time

in the history of CNMI. "The idea came from the recent technology advancement in Facebook, where we can post live broadcasts" said Etti, account executive of Skywalker Communications, "We have analyzed the growth of social media, especially Facebook in the islands, and it is getting increasingly popular, so we decided to use this platform for broadcasting live performances for the world to see. The result has been spectacular." With this idea, Skywalker Communications approached one of the principal sponsors of the Liberation Day Festivities, IT&E, to provide high-speed Internet services at the festival grounds for live broadcasting.

Dr. Bo Hu, president of Skywalker Communications,

envisioned the Liberation Day festivities to not only bring joy to the local community, but also be a source of attraction for tourists to visit the island and attend the events. "I think The Liberation Day Festivities also serves as a platform for tourists to witness the truly beautiful and rich culture of the CNMI, the culture that I fell in love with," said Dr. Bo, "keeping that in mind, we decided to live broadcast the Liberation Day performances on our Liberation Day Facebook page, so that people from other parts of the world can watch the incredible performances and be inspired from it. Credit goes to one of our principal sponsors, IT&E, for arranging the live broadcasts"

In 2016, Skywalker Communications used the social

media platform to promote the 2016 CNMI Liberation Day Festivities, and to great effect. Skywalker Communications' social media team has been posting news, photos, videos, and any updates relating to the Liberation Day Festivities on the "CNMI Liberation Day Festivities" Facebook page. The idea of posting live videos of the performances on the stage created a huge buzz in the community. Skywalker Communications is also using the social media platform to engage with the people of the CNMI in order to improve the festivities even further. The Liberation Day page has been viewed, in average, by around 75,000 people every month, from all across the world, with 36,000 post engagements with the viewers. Such exposure is also attracting tourists to visit the island. (PR)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 5, 2000

### Fuel costs cut CUC revenues

Rising fuel costs continue to jack up operating expenses of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, while the inability to collect payment for government utilities begins to shrink its revenues from October 1, 1999 to April 30 this year. The government-owned utility firm spent \$14.7 million to purchase fuel to run its power generators during the seven-month period, up by staggering 60 percent over the same period during the previous fiscal year. This means that CUC pumped additional \$5.5 million to buy nearly same amount of fuel that cost a total of \$9.2 million from October 1998 to April 1999, due to the increase in world oil prices, according to the latest statistics provided by the corporation.

### Higher interest rate delays floating of \$60-M bond

Higher interest rates that prevail in the mainland United States economy is delaying the CNMI government's flotation of the \$60 million municipal bond, which will be used to match available federal funds for several infrastructure projects in the Northern Marianas. The Commonwealth Development Authority earlier expressed optimism the bond will be sold in the U.S. market towards the end of last month but underwriters decided to hold back in anticipation of lower interest

rates next month. CDA Board Chair John S. Tenorio said the government-controlled lending agency has originally stretched the expected time-frame for the flotation of the municipal bond up until the eighth month of the year, when interest rates are traditionally lower.

July 5, 2004

### Extreme caution urged at Saipan, Tinian Ports

The Tinian seaport is now open to all kinds of vessels, but port officials urged ship captains to use extreme caution due to the presence of off-stationed buoys.

Saipan seaport manager Antonio Cabrera said Buoy No. 4 has been removed from the middle of the Tinian harbor channel on Sunday. The buoy was displaced from its original position by the strong current during Typhoon Tingting, obstructing the entry of large vessels into the port. He also reported that except for Buoy No. 2, all buoy lights at the Saipan seaport are working and visible at night. Night entry and exit are therefore permissible, Cabrera said. Masters and pilots are nevertheless asked to be cautious when entering the Saipan seaport, especially when transferring a vessel at the sharp bend of the channel, he added.

### In-house task force endorsed to tackle mining

The Senate has endorsed the immediate creation of an in-house task force at the Marianas Public Lands Authority to address pozzolan mining issues on Pagan.

Senate minority leader Pete P. Reyes said that, in a meeting Friday, lawmakers agreed to issue a statement pushing for the establishment of "a task force that involves residents of Pagan." The MPLA earlier said that the bill's proposed task force is unnecessary because the MPLA is capable of reviewing the

mining applications internally. Reyes, for his part, said an internal task force would be useless if it does not involve concerned parties such as the residents.

July 5, 2005

### Matson hikes surcharge rate

Matson raised its fuel surcharge in its Hawaii, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands services by one percentage point, effective July 3, 2005. In a news release issued through Business Wire, Matson attributed the increase—from 10.5 to 11.5 percent—to sustained increases in fuel costs. Matson first notified its customers of the planned increase in early June. The move is expected to result in higher prices of consumer goods in the CNMI, as most are imported from the U.S. mainland or Asia and brought to the islands by Matson and other shipping firms.

### TSA: Saipan manpower pool exhausted

The Transportation Security Administration is still facing a personnel shortage at the Saipan International Airport, despite having exhausted its manpower pool for the island. Rhonda Vickery, TSA federal security director for Saipan, said 67 full-time and part-time screeners are currently employed at the Saipan airport. While Vickery refused to give an exact number of the screeners needed to serve passengers at the airport, TSA's website states that Saipan ideally requires at least 80 screeners. She reported that two new screeners started training two weeks ago and are expected to come on board soon. Still, TSA needs more screeners.

Representatives of Accenture Ltd., which has a human resource services contract with TSA, will be coming to the CNMI in the last week of August to assess applicants.



# 18 take oath as newest US citizens

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

For businessman Adonis Ibanez Santos, obtaining U.S. citizenship means he can now travel everywhere and do whatever he wants like any other American.

Santos, 52, said now he is not worrying about his immigration papers unlike before when there's no guarantee whether his work contract would be renewed or not.

Santos, a native of Tarlac, Philippines, first came to Saipan in 1986 to work as a mechanic of a diving shop.

Santos saved money from his hard work in 10 years and put up his own shop, Auto Marine.

At present, Santos employs 52 persons and majority of them are locals.

Santos' son, who was born on Saipan, petitioned him to get a green card.

For Sae Hee Kim, she feels great that she is now a U.S. citizen.

Kim, 38, who hails from South Korea, first came to Tinian in 1994, where she worked part-time as a cashier at a gift shop.

Kim and her family are now staying on Saipan, where they are engaged in manufacturing noni products.

Kim's father petitioned her to get a green card.

For Estrellita Laxamana Sablan, she is very proud now that she is a U.S. citizen.

"This is the moment we have been waiting for ever since. Today is our day. This is my fourth year to be a green card holder. This is a big bonus day," said the beaming Sablan.

Sablan, who is a native of Bulacan, in the Philippines, said being a U.S. citizen has a lot of advantages, including being able to travel anywhere in the world. She said she can now pursue other jobs.

Sablan is married to federal court security officer Alexander Sablan. They have a 13-year-old daughter.

Mrs. Sablan first came to

Saipan in 1998, where she worked as a waitress then as a bartender at the former Hotel Nikko Saipan.

Mrs. Sablan is currently working as a sales associate at ABC Store.

Santos, Kim, and Sablan were among the 18 persons who took their oath as the newest U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony held in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday morning.

Most of the newest citizens are Filipinos. The rest are from South Korea, Kosrae, Romania, and Thailand.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona presided over the ceremony.

Immigration Services Officer Shelia Kelty moved to accept the 18 new citizens.

Immigration Services Officer Diane S. Zedde, who is moving to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Florida this week, served as the guest speaker.

Zedde said the United States welcomes and embraces individuals of different nations who are committed to becoming U.S. citizens.

"You became a U.S. citizen today through your efforts, determination and patience—because you had a dream," said the emotional Zedde.

Zedde said it's her last naturalization ceremony on Saipan, but that she remembers that her first ceremony was also Manglona's first in late 2011.

She said before there were eight to 10 new citizens when ceremonies were held once a year.

Now, she said, there are 20 to 25 citizens in two to three months.

Zedde said she is so happy to be one of the first to congratulate the 18 newest U.S. citizens.

She said the ceremony is especially rewarding for her because she interviewed some of them for their green card a few years ago, and for naturalization.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The 18 newest U.S. citizens wave U.S. flags and show their certificates in a group photo during a naturalization ceremony held in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday morning. Sitting front from left to right are U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, and Immigration Services officers Diane S. Zedde and Shelia Kelty.

"I want to take a few minutes to remind you why you are here: Not because you passed the interview or memorized the 100 questions, but because you had a dream—the American dream," Zedde said.

Zedde said the path to citizenship is not easy as it requires effort, determination, and lots of patience.

"For some, the path may be long, but you have ended your journey to become a U.S. citizen today not because of your wealth or social status, but because of your commitment," she said.

Aside from Adonis Santos, Sae Kim, and Estrellita Sablan, the other newest U.S. citizens are Myla Diaz Beltran, Rustica Elauria Fermaran, Roxanna Domingo Jacobs, Jesus Ceon Llanes, Fe Marichu Mari Mercado, Toribio Cube Mercado Jr., Betsy Augustine Mike, and Lourdes Cunanan Mike.

The other citizens are Jirapha Mills, Juanito Ramos Reyes, Angelita Aquino Romero, Luz Morales Sablan, Roderick Callius Santos, Adrian Alexandru Sufana, and Meziel Niaga Vaughan.

## CUC: Papago, San Vicente residents to experience water interruptions

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers along Isa Drive from Papago Tank to the San Vicente Church Intersection, Lao Lao, and Stanford Areas will be experiencing series of temporary water service interruptions from July 5 through July 7, 2016. Customers along San Vicente Village to Sailing Drive will have limited water supply. CUC contractor, ASC Construction, will be disinfecting and performing test procedures before putting the tank online.

The project is anticipated to be completed by the evening of July 7, 2016, and customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services soon thereafter.

Below is the water outage schedule:

■ Tuesday, July 5, 10am-1pm

■ Tuesday/Wednesday, July 5-6, 8pm-6am

■ Thursday, July 7, 6am-4pm

This project is funded by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The newly constructed pre-stressed concrete tank will be commissioned after the disinfection is completed and passes bacteriological testing, appropriate chlorine residual and all other required testing procedures.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our facebook page for the latest updates (<http://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

## Vehicle for Bid "As Is"

### 2010 Toyota RAV4 Four Door SUV Minimum Bid \$13,000

Vehicle may be viewed at Express Financial, San Jose,  
Tuesday, July 5th to Friday, July 8th, 2016  
from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information,  
please call Express Financial at 235-6032. Express Financial  
reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
P.O. Box 501220 • Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: 235-5131



## WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2015 CUC Annual Water Quality Report is now available on-line!

Please go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CCR-2015.pdf> to view what contaminants were detected in your water in 2015 and to learn more about your drinking water. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

## AYOOR REPOD

Yóómw 2015 CUC Annual Water Quality Report nge a llo on-line!

Uló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CCR-2015.pdf> bwe ubwe weri meta mil ngaw kka re schungi llól yóómw schaal llól 2015 me ubwe bawl ghi mataf reel úlúmómw schaal. Amataffal kkal nge eghi auscheya reel yááyál me ghatchúl yóómw schaal.

Faingi CUC reel (670) 664-4282 ngare u tipeli rebwe seleti ngalúgh amataff kkal, kkapas ngali eschay, me ngare u mwuschel eew kkopiya rebwe bwughi lló reemw me ngare afanga ngalúgh.

## GUMUAHA RIPOT PÁ'GU

I ijom-mu 2015 CUC Annual na Ripot Kuáldát Hånum esta pá'gu gumuaha gi on-line!

Put fabot hånão para i <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CCR-2015.pdf> para u ma'atan hãfa na contaminants manmasodda' gi halum hanom-mu gi 2015 yan para un tung'u mäs put i hanum magimin. Esti na ripot ha sasahguan siha manimpottãnti na imfotmasion put i source yan kuáldát i hanum magimin.

Yanggin un nisisita i ripot matranslãda, ya malagu' hão kumuentusi hãyi put i ripot pat malagu' hão kopian pãppit u ma'entrega pat mana'hånão guatu para hãgu, put fabot ågang i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.



# Opinion

*Hafa Adair*  
**Saipan Tribune**  
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## EDITORIAL

### Congress plays partisan politics while Zika spreads

**C**ongress is giving the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito every chance to gain an advantage in the fight against the Zika virus. No one knows exactly when the first such mosquito will transmit the virus inside the U.S., but it might happen before lawmakers manage to pass a bill to pay for its prevention and control.

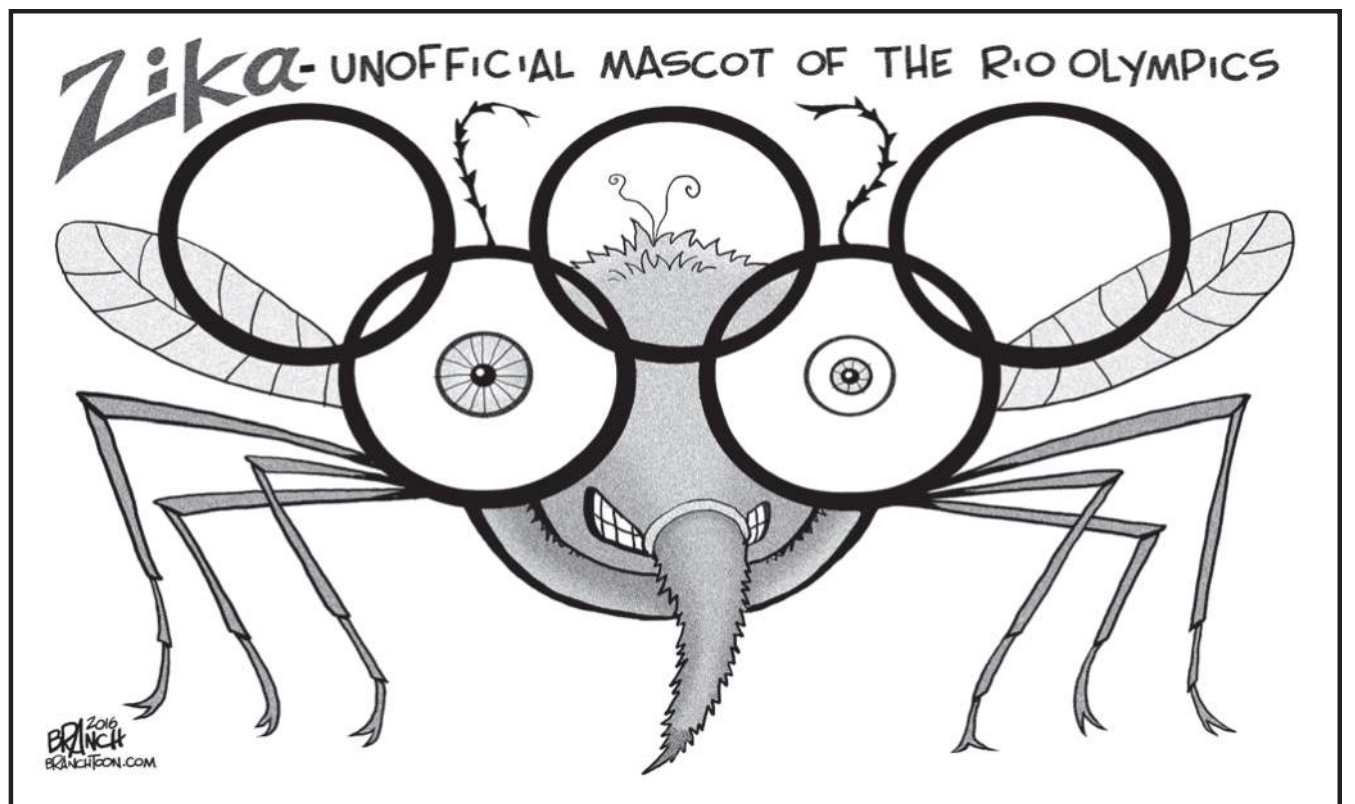
On Tuesday, Senate Democrats blocked a Republican plan to partly fund President Barack Obama's request — issued more than four months ago — for money to fight Zika. The White House had asked for almost \$1.9 billion to help states control mosquitoes, create faster tests for the virus, and develop a vaccine, among other things. Congressional Republicans offered \$1.1 billion, with strings attached.

One of them was that none of the money go to women's health clinics such as those run by Planned Parenthood. That's nonsensical, since Zika is a disease that can be sexually transmitted and whose worst effects can be prevented with birth control. Republicans also proposed other dubious conditions, such as loosening Clean Water Act restrictions on some pesticides and cutting the budget for Obamacare.

Naturally, the partisans disagree over which side is more heartless in its disregard for pregnant women and their babies at risk of developing Zika-related microcephaly. Meanwhile, as they have dithered, 265 pregnant women in the U.S. have been infected with the virus. Zika-related birth defects are believed to have been found in at least four newborns and in four lost pregnancies. And mosquitoes continue spreading the virus in dozens of other countries.

It's possible that Congress's latest failure is merely posturing — that lawmakers have made their partisan points and plan to approve funding for Zika next month when they reconvene. If so, it's small comfort. Congress may take most of the summer off, but *Aedes aegypti* doesn't.

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### A new American century: Reflections on the Fourth of July

#### PART 1: AN ODE TO THE COMMON MAN 1776 or The Amerexit Year One

Common sense people follow their common good. When common good is to be found in a certain political construction, they adhere to that construction naturally. If that political construction serves no longer their short, medium, and long-time needs, common sense people will find a better way.

The 1776 generation was one of visionary people. And because they wanted to take their country back, they started what we know today as being the American Revolution. For this reason, they were, at the time, stigmatized, despised, threatened, and outcast, but they ultimately prevailed.

Try to imagine for a moment the Amerexit 240 years ago using the lenses of an opponent! You do not have to try too hard, since the event really happened, but it was called instead The 1776 American Revolution. The scared voices of today, of an ancient Greek choir type, predicting the doomsday after Brexit, would not have sounded so well in 1776, now would they? People who vociferate nowadays are those who usually can't see the forest for the trees.

#### 2016 or The Amerexit Year Two Hundred and Forty & The Brexit Year One

Who would have thought ever that the former British masters—whom the Americans have won their independence from 240 years ago—had been able to fight for—and win—their Second Independence from the Old Europe, almost exactly 240 years later?

To all ye faithful ancient Greek choir members and Brexit gravediggers, mourners and howlers, jinxes and apocalyptic soothsayers, I come to thee and say this: make a little mental exercise and teleport thy pessimistic predictions to the year of grace, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six. Then, replace the word "Brexiters" with "rebel colonists." Then, start asking yourselves again: "Had I known this before, would I have preached it differently?"

2016 bears a special importance, for both the American and British people. The first ones celebrate their first Independence (Amerexit), of 240 years ago. The latter ones have just taken their country back, and celebrate their second Independence (Brexit), of this very year.

Let us, therefore, trust the common sense of the simple man, and not the one of the perpetual seekers for the good of others. Let us see clearly the true colors, and not get distracted by the zillions of nuances.

#### PART 2: THE SECOND GREAT AMERICAN CENTURY The First American Century

Seventy-five years ago, in 1941, the United States was on the

By **TIBERIU DIANU**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Tiberiu Dianu is a scholar and author of several books and articles in law and post-communist societies. He studied law, human rights, and criminal justice at the universities of Bucharest (Romania), Strasbourg (France), Oxford and Manchester (U.K.), American University (in Washington, D.C.), and University of Maryland at College Park (in Maryland). He currently lives in Washington, D.C. and works for various government and private agencies. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*



point of entering the World War II, and was trying to redefine its role—and foreign policy—in the world.

On January 6, 1941, president Franklin Delano Roosevelt articulated, in his State of the Union address, a *Four Freedoms speech* (religion, speech, press and assembly) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four\\_Freedoms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Freedoms) that prepared the country to switch the course from its traditional isolationist policies to a new interventionist approach.

This paved the way for an August 14, 1941 American-British *Atlantic Charter*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic\\_Charter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Charter) issued by the leaders of the US and the UK at that time (Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill). The Charter stated the two allies' goals of the war and for the post-war world. The Atlantic Charter was itself the platform for the post-war Allies' construction of the United Nations, established on October 24, 1945, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on December 10, 1948, as a common standard for its member states.

Soon after Roosevelt's speech, on February 17, 1941, Henry Luce, the American magazine magnate, pushed things even further in his *Life* magazine editorial about "The American Century." <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article6139.htm> He outlined the American world hegemony for the rest of the twentieth century and beyond. His vision — internationalist in essence, but not of a New Deal type — was based on four pillars, able to secure the United States' world influence, namely: *political* (constitutional federation), *economic* (strong capitalist state), *military* (large, strong and modern combat force, nuclear arsenal, powerful intelligence network), and *cultural* (arts — performing and visual, and fashion).

The concept has not been developed as a territorial, but rather temporal one. Therefore, it was not exposed as an embodiment for an American empire, but related to an endurance of the American democratic principles throughout the century. The concept was based on a vision of freedom under law, since freedom (which creates limitless possibilities) predicates the "American Dream" as the path toward an abundant and prosperous life.

However, in terms of partnership with the UK, "the American Century" vision departed from the Atlantic Charter position, in the sense that the US should assume "the senior partner" role, since this "has been true for a long time" and that the UK, as "an

See **FOURTH OF JULY** on Next Page



## On July Fourth, immigrants remind us all of the value of freedom

When America's Founding Fathers declared their independence more than two centuries ago, they not only claimed freedom for themselves and their fellow countrymen but they also claimed it for those who had yet to arrive at our shores —the waves of future immigrants and their descendants.

The founders understood that an openness to immigration was essential to the fledgling nation's success. Included in the "long train of abuses" they declared against the king of Great Britain on July 4, 1776, was that "He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; (and) refusing to pass others to encourage their Migration hither."

Since that first Fourth of July, America has become home to millions of immigrants who share our blessings of liberty — more than 80 million immigrants since official records began in 1820. These immigrants came and continue to come and enjoy the same inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that our founders declared to be the rightful inheritance of all mankind.

Immigration continues to stir controversy, as it has in decades past. But Americans should pause on this Fourth of July to consider the contributions that immigrants and their children have made to the core values we celebrate on Independence Day.

Most immigrants come from countries where citizens do not enjoy the freedoms that we take for granted. Many of them have suffered under governments that stifle economic initiative and other basic liberties. For those immigrants and their families, America represents a life-changing opportunity to live in a country where they can realize their full potential and serve others in a market economy.

Almost every American has witnessed first-hand the work ethic of immigrants — whether they are engineers and nurses or landscape gardeners and cab drivers. Many of our most successful technology startup companies were founded by immigrants. One recent study found that two-thirds of the students who won high-profile competitions in science, technology, engineering and math were the children of immigrants.

Immigrants have also contributed to the defense of liberty by supporting and serving in the U.S. military. In the American Civil War, 18 percent of the Union Army was comprised of immigrants — most from Germany and Ireland. Of the select group of soldiers who have won the Congressional Medal of Honor since 1861, 20 percent, or more than 700, were born outside the United States.

Today, America's active duty military includes 65,000 immigrants — with Mexico and the Philippines as the top countries of origin. Foreign-born men and women in uniform bring with them critical language skills and cultural knowledge in service to

By **DANIEL GRISWOLD**

Tribune News Service

*Daniel Griswold is a senior research fellow and the co-director of the Program on the American Economy and Globalization with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.*



our nation. About 12 percent of all U.S. veterans are immigrants or the children of immigrants.

As America has proven since its birth, freedom is both a precious commodity and an unlimited resource: It's precious in that most people around the world still do not enjoy the full political, civil and economic freedom they deserve as human beings. It's unlimited in that one person's newfound freedom as an immigrant to the United States does not by necessity diminish the freedom of those of us who already live here.

In practice, immigrants enhance our freedom as they have done throughout American history. Immigrants remind us daily of the freedom and opportunity that America offers. They bring with them new ideas, skills and an entrepreneurial spirit. They join with us in paying the taxes and enlisting in the Armed Forces to defend our liberties from those who would take them away.

May all Americans, current and aspiring, enjoy a happy Fourth of July!

## A Fourth of July coincidence that teaches a lot

It was never great, say some cynics in response to Donald Trump's talk of making America great again, but you don't have to be a Trump fan to say oh, yes, it was — or a bleary-eyed optimist to say it still is.

For those dubious of such patriotic assurance this Fourth of July, here is a possible solution: Go behind the scenes of an incredible coincidence and see how greatness can dance with inevitable faults but arrive at good ends.

On July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the Declaration of Independence, two prime players in its creation died — Thomas Jefferson, 82 years old, and John Adams, 90. They were the last of the founders who told the British to get going because they preferred life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

A brilliant man, Adams repeatedly stood up for what was right when what was wrong would have advanced his career. He was a leader in spelling out fundamental American principles. He played a key role in getting a decent treaty from the British after the Revolutionary War and, as the second president, accomplished much to keep the American experiment charging ahead.

What many consider a disgrace was his backing of the Alien and Sedition Acts, which among other things aimed to shut up a critical press. This was a constitutional affront, said Jefferson, a champion of limited government put out with this Federalist favoring a stronger, more empowered federal presence. Jefferson challenged him for the presidency, won and, as one of his achievements, expanded the nation with his Louisiana Purchase.

He is hit a lot these days.

The main reason is that he owned slaves, but what many get wrong about him is thinking he did not see the contradiction between liberty for some and bondage for others. He in fact fought for laws to inhibit slavery and believed in eventual emancipation through democratic procedures. Especially toward the end of his

life, he worried that the splendid union he, Adams and others had helped forge would be split apart because of this issue.

What happened, of course, was the Civil War, and we should not forget what President Abraham Lincoln said at the Gettysburg Battlefield, namely that America had been "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men were created equal." The war, he said, was "testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure." What he forecast was that we would "have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

As the author Gary Wills says about that speech, Lincoln took words from the Declaration and gave them new life in an idealism that keeps fighting on. It whipped segregation. It made possible the election of a black president, and, as that president said in a speech to students at Howard University this year, they are better off than any previous black generation even though they still have issues of justice to confront.

In their last 14 years of life, Jefferson and Adams began ex-

## Happy Fourth from your flag

I've been to the moon. I've been burned. But more often I'm honored. I'm your American flag.

With 13 stars for colonies clamoring for freedom, I was first flown at Fort Stanwix in New York in 1777 — and then carried into battle for the first time at Brandywine in Pennsylvania. By war's end, I was saluted as the emblem of a sovereign nation, new and free. I'm your American flag.

But challenges lay ahead. With 15 stars and 15 stripes, I survived shock and shell at Fort McHenry in Baltimore in 1814. With the aid of rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air, I was spied from afar at dawn's early light by a patriot poet. I was then celebrated in sight and song by a fledgling nation. I'm your American flag.

A half century later and with 33 stars and 13 stripes, I was saddened to see our nation divided. Our brothers' blood was spilt in battle north and south. But by war's end, Lincoln's iconic words at Gettysburg prevailed — a unique nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. But that pledge was yet to be fully fulfilled.

I survived mustard gas and ghastly death in European trenches in WW I and, 48 stars strong, was hoisted by six soldiers on Mount Suribachi at Iwo Jima in WW II. I'm proud to be your American flag.

I was carried into battle over frozen turf in Korea, waved more proudly on flagpoles here at home with civil rights and women's rights rising, and was saluted by a little boy as the horse-drawn caisson with his father's casket passed by on the streets of our nation's capital. It was the best of times and the worst of times, but through it all, I was your American flag.

I lost sons and daughters in the rice paddies and hellish jungles of Vietnam, saw some succumb to Agent Orange, and witnessed renewed conflict about taking me, your American flag, to far-away lands like Iraq and Afghanistan. When and where warfare should be waged is an issue still troubling us today.

When our nation celebrated its bicentennial birthday in 1976 — 200 years after declaring our independence — I was there.

By **JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service

*Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at [speaktojay@aol.com](mailto:speaktojay@aol.com).*



changing letters about their beloved country, becoming close friends at a distance. On the day of their deaths, Adams' famous last words were, "Thomas Jefferson still survives." Actually, Jefferson had already died, but in a way, both survive, their ideals of liberty, equality of respect and opportunity, inalienable rights and the consent of the governed survive.

They have much to combat every direction you look, but there are also many pluses, and our greatness will not lose unless we give up on these ideals or even the idea that political antagonisms can do good and sometimes heal as well.

## FOURTH OF JULY

From Page 10

island people of less than 50 millions cannot expect to be the senior partner."

### The Second American Century

The vision and principles for an American Century has been sustained—in what is known as *Pax Americana* —, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pax\\_Americana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pax_Americana) since the middle of the twentieth century to date, by the preponderance of power enjoyed by the United States (due to the aforementioned political, economic, military, and cultural factors).

These principles have remained valid today. With the advent of the new millennium, America copes with the same challenges, but in a new format: *political* (Russia's state authoritarianism and expansionism), *economic* (China's growth and, more recently, the Brexit), *military* (Islamic terrorism), and *cultural* (multicultural policies).

At the end of his editorial, Henry Luce said: "It is in this spirit that all of us are called, each to his own measure of capacity, and each in the widest horizon of this vision, to create the first great American Century."

The time has come, I say, to embark ourselves on a new journey, of turning this twenty first century into a new—the Second—great American Century.

By **JAMES F. BURNS**

Miami Herald

*James F. Burns is a retired professor at the University of Florida. He wrote this for the Miami Herald.*



When people parade on the Fourth of July and other occasions, I generally lead the parade. As I pass by, children along the parade route often stand at attention and proudly salute me while their parents or a grandmother behind them might have a tear rolling down their cheek in memory of a loved one who served in uniform and didn't make it back home.

Often I'm inconspicuous, standing silently in the corner of a meeting hall or classroom — though far fewer of them nowadays. Indeed, I've fallen from favor for some incensed by actions our government takes. But I suffer in silence when abused or defiled for I represent all of our rights, including protesting and speaking our minds.

Though I spend most of my time here at home, I represent us around the globe at various foreign outposts, including military bases, embassies and consulates. And those row upon row of white crosses above the cliffs of Normandy and elsewhere where we left our honored dead are often decorated with my colors of red, white and blue. I'm your American flag.

But most of all I represent the American spirit, the indomitable demand and yearning for freedom, excellence and opportunity. I am not the flag of a ruling regime or royal family. I am the American flag, representing rights emanating from a higher and transcendent authority honored on our coinage.

Look up to me as you salute or stand at attention. Pledge yourself to fulfill lofty goals symbolized by my heavenly sky-blue field for 50 stars. With red for valor and zeal and white for hope and purity, look up and salute with pride what the patriot poet hailed as a worthy star-spangled banner.

May it forever wave over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

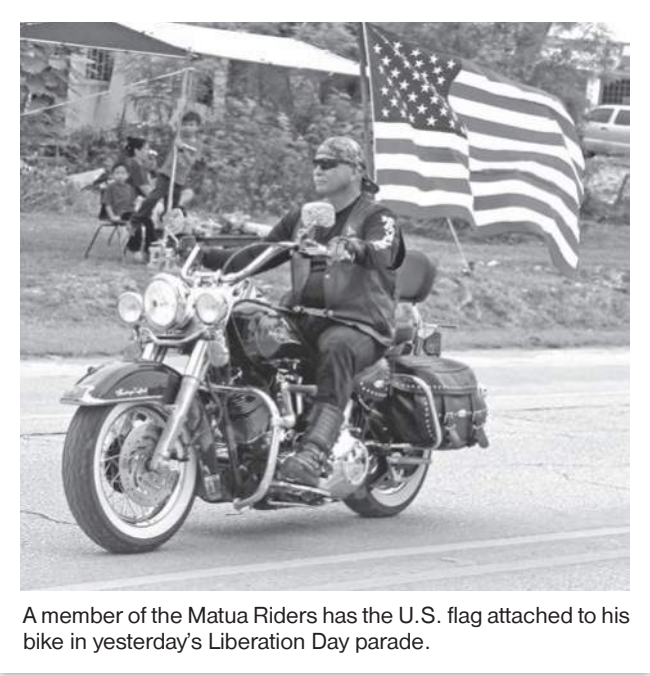






# 71st CNMI Liberation Day Parade

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



A member of the Matua Riders has the U.S. flag attached to his bike in yesterday's Liberation Day parade.



Family members of the late governor Eloy S. Inos were among the hundreds that lined up along Beach Road.



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang waves to the crowd.



Skywalker Communications Group managing director Dr. Hu Bo.



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres waves the CNMI flag.



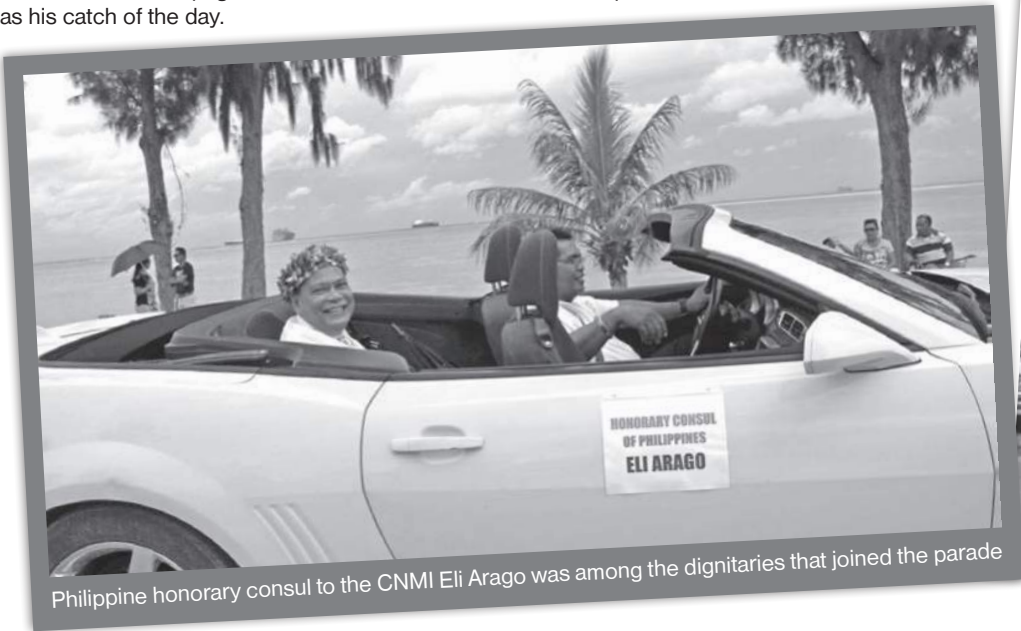
A member of the Papago Familian Lancheros shows off an octopus as his catch of the day.



Japan Consul Toshio Matsumura and his wife Kiyoko.



U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Better Bolivar, Commander Joint Region Marianas, greets the crowd.



Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Eli Arago was among the dignitaries that joined the parade



A bust of a Chamorro warrior was one of the attractions of the Tan Holdings float.



# 71st CNMI Liberation Day Anniversary Coronation Night

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



CNMI JROTC cadets, left, lead the posting of colors while Alfred Saures and Nolas Kaliga sing the U.S. and CNMI national anthems in last Friday's 71st CNMI Liberation Day Anniversary Coronation Night at the carnival grounds at the Garapan Fishing Base.



Some of the Liberation Day Royal Court candidates wait for the others after being presented to the crowd.



Last year's Royal Court Queen Zolenska Yaroitemal passes the crown to this year's winner Christine Roque.



Liberation Day Princess Jamila Alegre, fourth left, failed to attend the coronation night and was surprised by reigning Queen Christine Roque, third, left, Royal Court coordinator Rose Hocog, second left, and Skywalker Communications Group managing director Dr. Hu Bo when they delivered her tiara and sash at her place of work.



Liberation Day Royal Court candidate Mardee-Ann M. Hermosilla is escorted by a member of the CNMI JROTC program.



Shanthia Nicole Espinosa looks stunning in her red gown.



Catherine A. Reyes presents herself to the crowd.



The 2015 CNMI Royal Court Stephanie Camacho, Zolenska Yaroitemal, and Ashley Tabilisma join Rota acting mayor George O. Hocog, Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan, Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Saipan Municipal Council vice chair Alice Igitol, and Skywalker managing director Dr. Hu Bo in a group photo.



Rota candidate Beda Garcia Mundo, right, and Rota acting mayor George O. Hocog.



Tinian candidate Malena Hofschneider, third left, with her family members, Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, second left, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, right, and Skywalker Communications Group managing director Dr. Hu Bo, front.



# Business

## Economic crisis bares hunger problem in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Kelly Vega says she lost 30 pounds in three months as she focused on feeding her 6-year-old daughter rather than herself.

"We are eating two meals a day. If we eat breakfast, there's no lunch. If we have lunch, there's no dinner," she said.

This socialist country is suffering from severe food shortages that are making it hard to get enough to eat, even though Venezuela has the largest oil

reserves in the world. Government officials blame the shortfalls on right-wing business owners hoarding products to sow chaos, while their detractors say it's the result of chronic economic mismanagement.

At the same time, food production and imports are down

and inflation is high.

Some Venezuelans who had given up produce as an unaffordable luxury are now turning to urban farming to get vegetables back into their diets.

With the help of a government-sponsored urban farming campaign, the head of

the newly created Ministry of Urban Agriculture, Lorena Freitez, hopes home gardens will make up 20 percent of the food supply by 2019.

"Urban agriculture will cushion the effects of the shortages. Cities will not be so dependent on imports, and we will make great strides in food sovereignty," she said.

Now, amid the narrow roads and crumbling shacks of one of South America's largest slums, a careful look yields something unexpected: a carefully tended tomato plant and a bush of basil leaves. The family members growing the plants hope that in a few months, they'll be eating vegetables again.

A team of researchers from three leading local universities found that 12 percent of the people in Caracas skip meals. Researchers say that is a sharp increase from a few years ago, when the price of oil had not yet crashed, and many Venezuelans still found it consistently easy to get the food they needed.

"The thing is, Venezuelans aren't used to this," said Central University professor Mari- anella Herrera.



In this June 4, 2016 photo, Alexa Vega eats a piece of bread at her home in the Petare shantytown in Caracas, Venezuela. Vega's mother Kelly moved to Venezuela from Barranquilla, Colombia 12 years ago, attracted by the dazzling boom of the oil country, but now their lives have been hit by runaway inflation and a severe food shortage. Some are turning to urban farming to get vegetables back into their diets.

### Retired worker attends company functions without paying

#### YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.your-officecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

**Q**: One of our retirees keeps showing up at employee social functions. "Gary" stopped working here three years ago, yet he still attends every gathering and is usually among the last to leave. He even won the grand prize at our big raffle drawing last year.

Our social events are planned by a committee and typically include annual spring and fall get-togethers, plus a holiday party. To cover the cost, everyone contributes to an employee activity fund. While Gary does have friends here, many of us hardly know him and feel he shouldn't participate without paying. How should we handle this?

**A**: Certain situations seem to cry out for a policy, and this is definitely one. In reality, the cause of your problem is not gregarious Gary but the lack of attendance guidelines for retirees. Therefore, to resolve the issue, you will need to get management involved.

First, several concerned employees should schedule a meeting with the human relations director or another appropriate executive. Have a spokesperson concisely describe the problem and then suggest an initial action step.

For example: "There seems to be a lot of confusion about retirees attending social functions. Some people assume they aren't invited, while others continue to attend for free. To clarify this, we would like to draft some guidelines for you to review. Would that be OK?"

If management gives the go-ahead, then it's time to consider options. Retirees might be welcomed at no cost or excluded altogether. They could choose to maintain activity fund contributions or pay a fee for each event. When making a recommendation, carefully consider what will work best for your particular organization.

Once a policy has been written and approved, it must be shared with all current and retired employees well before the next event. And since Gary is such an avid partygoer, perhaps one of his friends should call to personally deliver the news.

**Q**: When my boss left for a three-month maternity leave, I was asked to become the acting director. However, this position has not been made official and my pay has remained the same. Would it be appropriate to ask management for a raise? And can I put this job on my resume?

**A**: Because "acting" appointments typically don't involve a formal position change, your role was "made official" when management announced that you were temporarily assuming these responsibilities. A brief three-month assignment would not usually include a salary increase, but you might make a case for a one-time bonus.

Hopefully you realize that, even without tangible rewards, this temporary upgrade offers many potential benefits. You will not only gain higher-level experience, but also have opportunities to make valuable contacts and enhance your reputation. The increased knowledge and exposure could make future promotions more likely.

To document this period of additional responsibility, be sure that it's included in your next performance review. Providing management with regular progress reports will help to confirm your activities and accomplishments. And yes, this assignment should definitely be mentioned on your resume.

## EU's new crises raise questions about what more can be done

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP)—Europe in turmoil. Britain dealing the European Union a heavy blow. People power causing the EU great angst over what its mission should be. Terror strikes in a major capital.

"We cannot continue as if nothing had happened ... Europe's crisis is deep," warned EU chief Jean-Claude Juncker. "A period for reflection, clarification and discussion is called for."

Those comments and events ring true today—but they are actually from June 2005.

At the time, Juncker's Lux-

embourg held the EU's rotating presidency. A Tony Blair-led Britain had just destroyed his blueprint for a long-term EU budget by insisting on getting its money back. Weeks earlier, Dutch and French voters had rejected a draft EU constitution, ending two years of behind-the-scenes work.

In early July 2005, the London transport system was attacked by extremists who killed 52 people.

So much has changed since then, yet so little appears different—except perhaps that Europe rallied to Britain's side after the July 7 bombings. To-

day, the U.K. appears to be in virtual quarantine out of fear that its anti-European streak might be contagious.

Though the crises today may be different—Europe's failure to manage a surge of refugee arrivals, Greece's debt mountain and future in the shared euro currency—they raise the same questions about how to make the EU relevant to people, whether they be in Malta or Finland or Germany.

Even to many in the 28-nation bloc, Europe seems remote. There are no "European nationals," and the citizens of

Europe distrust distant Brussels even more than their own governments.

Indeed it's unclear what Europe might do now that it could not have done a decade ago, as far-right parties cry victory in the wake of Brexit and shout for others to follow the U.K. lead.

"The challenge for Europe's leadership is to address the legitimate grievances of people dissatisfied with Europe, without kowtowing to the ideologies of the extreme left or right," said Etienne Davignon, president of the Friends of Europe think tank.

## Apple sued in China over showing of war film from the 1990s

BEIJING (AP)—Apple is being sued by a subsidiary of China's broadcasting regulator over a propaganda film more than 20 years old, in the latest legal wrangling for the tech giant in China in recent weeks.

A Beijing court says the case has been brought by a production center that alleges that Apple has infringed its exclusive online rights to broadcast a film that depicts Chinese fighting against Japanese soldiers in northern China in the early 1930s.

The plaintiff is also suing the developer and operator of

the Youku HD app available on Apple's App Store that it says enabled users to watch the film and caused it "huge economic losses," according to the Beijing Haidian District People's Court.

The court says it has accepted the case brought by Movie Satellite Channel Program Production Center that comes under the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television.

The plaintiff alleges that Apple has infringed its exclusive online rights to broadcast "Xuebo dixiao," which loosely translates as "Bloody Fight

with the Fierce Enemy" and was first shown in 1994.

The production center is also suing Heyi Information and Technology (Beijing) Company Ltd., which developed and operated the Youku HD app, the court said in an online statement Thursday.

The app is sold by Youku.com, according to information on Apple's iTunes site. The Youku site is one of China's best known movie and TV program streaming sites and is owned by Youku Tudou Inc., which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

The plaintiff wants the two

companies to immediately stop broadcasting the film and is seeking compensation of 50,000 yuan (\$7,500) plus its "reasonable expenditure" of 20,158 yuan (\$3,000) in attempting to stop the infringement of its rights, the court said.

Emailed requests for comment to Apple spokespeople were not answered Saturday, and a spokesman for Youku Tudou was not able to immediately comment.

Apple Inc. has recently faced legal setbacks and other obstacles in China, its second-biggest global market.



# Nation

## Fireworks, franks, festivities: Americans mark July Fourth

**NEW YORK (AP)**—From fireworks soaring above the Washington Monument to hot dogs being downed in New York City's famed frank-eating contest, Americans aren't shy about celebrating their nation's birthday. Many places are rolling out long-established Independence Day traditions on Monday (even if some of those traditions aren't as long-established as they sound). Some communities are trying new things to mark the holiday, even as others are paring back. Some Fourth of July highlights from around the country:

### IN THE NATION'S BIRTHPLACE, A PARADE AND A PARKWAY PARTY

In Philadelphia—where the founding fathers approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776—the national birthday party runs all day.

It kicks off at 10 a.m. with a reading of the document and an event honoring everyday heroes, with celebrity guest Leslie Odom Jr., a Philadelphia native who plays Aaron Burr in the Broadway musical "Hamilton." Then comes the holiday parade, which includes Miss America 2016 Betty Cantrell.

Next up is a five-hour party with free entertainment on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The celebration continues with a five-hour concert with performers including Odom and singer-songwriter Leon Bridges. Fireworks close out the day.

### A FINAL WHITE HOUSE FOURTH FOR THE PRESIDENT

It's the last Fourth of July at



the White House for President Barack Obama and his family, and they're having some people over: military families and two of the president's favorite performers, singer-songwriter Janelle Monae and rapper Kendrick Lamar.

The Democratic president and his wife, Michelle, invite military families each year for a barbecue, concert and view of the fireworks on the National Mall.

This year, they'll also hear Lamar—Obama said his favorite song of 2015 was the rapper's "How Much a Dollar Cost"—and Monae, who was

a guest at a White House state dinner in May.

### NEW YORK: FRANKS AND FIREWORKS

American as apple pie? Fuhgeddaboutit. The frankfurter rules the Fourth in New York City, where the annual Nathan's Famous hot dog eating contest marks its centennial this year—well, not really. Nathan's itself dates to 1916, but showmen behind the hot dog competition have acknowledged they made up a long-told story about the contest beginning that year, too. It actually started in the 1970s.

Joey "Jaws" Chestnut set the world record in 2013 when he polished off 69 dogs in 10 minutes. His run of eight straight victories ended last year when he lost the Mustard Yellow International Belt to Matt "The Megatoad" Stonie. They and others will face off on the Coney Island boardwalk, with the chow-down showdown televised on ESPN3.

Later Monday, Macy's is promising its biggest Fourth of July fireworks display since the millennium show of 2000. The show over the East River features more than 56,000

**AP**  
Fireworks are set off during Canton, Ohio's Monumental Fourth Celebration at the William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum on Sunday, July 3, 2016, in Canton, Ohio.

pyrotechnic shells, 22 different hues and the New York debut of "pyro-writing" in the sky, all synchronized to patriotic tunes performed by the United States Air Force Band. The fireworks are televised on NBC, along with performances by country singer Kenny Chesney, pop band 5 Seconds of Summer, pop singer Meghan Trainor and others.

### BOSTON'S BLOWOUT

Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to line the banks of Boston's Charles River to watch the fireworks there, with millions more across the country watching live on CBS.

The celebration features pop stars Nick Jonas and Demi Lovato, country group Little Big Town and, as always, the Boston Pops Orchestra, which drives home the climactic fireworks finale to Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

### ONE CONNECTICUT CITY'S NEW CELEBRATION; ANOTHER CANCELS ITS OWN

New Haven's newly renovated

Q Bridge will be illuminated in red, white and blue at night, becoming Connecticut's first bridge to feature commemorative lighting.

The lights are capable of projecting six miles in a clear night sky over what's formally called the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge. It's among the most heavily traveled segments of the northeast corridor between New York and Boston.

Meanwhile, the state capital of Hartford canceled its July Fourth festival and fireworks show, which is billed as Connecticut's largest Independence Day celebration, though usually held a week after the holiday. The mayors of Hartford and neighboring East Hartford said they couldn't justify the roughly \$100,000 expense while facing painful spending cuts.

### JULY FOURTH, CALIFORNIA-STYLE

There's a something-for-everyone approach to fireworks in Los Angeles, where displays are planned at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Hollywood Bowl, Grand Park near City Hall and the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, among other places around the massive metro area. San Francisco holds a large fireworks display over the San Francisco Bay.

## Dad says 2 gators involved in Disney attack that killed son

**LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)**—The father of a toddler killed by an alligator at Disney last month told rescue officials two alligators were involved in the attack, according to emails from the Reedy Creek Fire Department.

Matt Graves said he was attacked by a second alligator as he tried to reach his 2-year-old son after the boy was pulled into the water outside Disney's upscale Grand Floridian Resort.

Capt. Tom Wellons described his interaction with the Nebraska father in emails to his supervisors obtained by The Orlando Sentinel (<http://tinyurl.com/z9baqzn>). Wellons said Graves initially refused to leave the area as rescuers searched for little Lane Graves even though the father needed stitches and antibiotics from gator bite marks. Wellons said he eventually persuaded Graves to get medical treat-

ment, promising he could return afterward.

"This incredibly sweet couple insisted on showing us pictures of their happy son. (The) mom kept referring to him as her 'happy boy,'" Wellons wrote in the emails.

On the way to the hospital, Graves shared "the horror that he experienced" as his son was being pulled into the water and "how another gator attacked him as he fought for his son," according to the email to supervisors.

The emails were forwarded to Orange County officials to alert them there may be a second gator. The boy's body was discovered intact about 15 yards from the shore, six feet underwater.

Signs posted in the area advised against swimming but did not warn of alligators. In the days after the attack Walt Disney posted signs warning of alligators in the area.

## Clinton, Obama, stand-ins emphasize her trustworthiness

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Hillary Clinton and her high-powered campaign stand-ins are talking about trust everywhere they speak these days, and for good reason.

The FBI is probing her use of a private email server. Husband Bill Clinton met with Attorney General Loretta Lynch in a session both say was innocent but they regret. And the Democratic Party is poised to nominate Clinton for president.

On Sunday's news shows, Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Labor Secretary Tom Perez explicitly talked about Clinton and trust. And the candidate herself acknowledged that she has "work to do" to earn the trust of voters

in her likely general election matchup against Republican Donald Trump, who suffers from a public trust deficit of a different sort, stemming from political inexperience and an impulsive style.

This week, President Barack Obama will personalize the "I trust Hillary" theme during his first appearance with his former secretary of state in battleground North Carolina. And Vice President Joe Biden will reinforce the message Friday in his hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania, with Clinton at his side.

It's all evidence of a remarkable vulnerability that persists both despite and because of Clinton's decades of

public life. But the timing of the trust campaign is no accident.

Bill Clinton, the former president, met last Monday with the FBI's boss, Lynch, on the tarmac in Phoenix in a session the drew widespread criticism. The FBI interviewed Clinton for more than three hours on Saturday about whether she exposed government secrets by blending personal and official business on a home email server. Clinton immediately gave a television interview in which she denied wrongdoing and repeated an acknowledgment she had slipped into a speech last week on the same day Sen. Elizabeth Warren vouched for her.

Clinton said she will do "everything I can to earn the trust of the voters of our country," remarks aired Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." "I know that's something that I'm going to keep working on, and I think that's, you know, a clear priority for me."

After Warren had endorsed her, Clinton acknowledged she'd "made mistakes. I don't know anyone who hasn't."

And she defended her sometimes too-cautious style.

"The reason I sometimes sound careful with my words is not that I'm hiding something. It's just that I'm careful with my words," she said at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's event in Chicago.



# Asia

## Bangladesh hunts hostage crisis clues, investigates IS claim



AP

Bangladeshi policemen on duty wear black badges on the first of two days of national mourning for the victims of the attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sunday, July 3, 2016.

**DHAKA, Bangladesh** (AP)—Security officials searched on Sunday for evidence and the possible masterminds of the weekend hostage-taking in an upscale restaurant in Bangladesh's capital. The government has denied the Islamic State group's claim of responsibility for the attack that left 28 dead, including six attackers and 20 of the hostages.

Police released photographs of the bodies of five attackers, along with their first names: Akash, Badhon, Bikash, Don and Ripon. The men belonged to the banned domestic group Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh, or JMB, and their families hadn't heard from them in months, according to police. Asked whether they might also have had Islamic State ties, Police Inspector General A.K.M. Shahidul Hoque said

authorities were investigating that possibility.

Despite the police saying IS links were being investigated, the home minister refuted the possibility that the Islamic State directed the attack from abroad. Bangladesh's government insists the extremist Sunni Muslim group based in Syria and Iraq has no presence in the country, and in the past has suggested that any claims of responsibility for violence waged in the South Asian country are simply opportunistic attempts at grabbing global attention.

"They are all Bangladeshis. They are from rich families, they have good educational background," Khan said of the attackers. One surviving suspect was detained when paramilitary forces ended the 10-hour standoff Saturday

morning, and authorities said he was being interrogated.

The siege marked an escalation in the militant violence that has hit Bangladesh with increasing frequency. Most of the attacks in the past several months have involved machete-wielding men singling out individual activists, foreigners and religious minorities.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has blamed her political opponents of trying to create chaos by backing domestic militants.

"Anyone who believes in religion cannot do such an act," Hasina said Saturday. "They do not have any religion, their only religion is terrorism."

On Sunday morning, the first of two days of national mourning for the victims, police were blocking all access to streets near the Holey Artisan Bakery

### *Tears, prayers as Bangladesh mourns dead in hostage crisis*

**DHAKA, Bangladesh** (AP)—Bangladesh's prime minister visited a stadium Monday where the bodies of three of the 20 victims were taken after a weekend attack in the capital, while security officials questioned some of those who had been rescued as they searched for information on the possible masterminds.

An official involved in the investigation said authorities were still holding five of the 13 people rescued Saturday morning when commandos stormed the restaurant in Dhaka's diplomatic zone, killing six of the attackers and capturing one.

Those detained include a Canadian citizen of Bangladeshi origin, as well as a Bangladesh-born British citizen, he said on condition of anonymity, as he was not authorized to speak to media about the ongoing probe.

He would give no other details of their identities, but said authorities were looking into their backgrounds and questioning their family and friends as well.

The attack—the worst convulsion of violence yet in the recent wave of deadly attacks to hit Bangladesh—has stunned the traditionally moderate Muslim nation and raised global concerns about whether it can cope with the increasingly strident Islamist militants.

That the attackers targeted a popular restaurant in the heart of the diplomatic quarter of Bangladesh's capital signaled a shift in militant tactics. Previously, most attacks were carried out by gangs of young men wielding cleavers and machetes and hacking into their victims before fleeing.

Surrounded by tearful fam-

ily members and a heavy security detail, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with diplomats from Italy and Japan lay wreaths of white flowers beside the coffins holding the three Bangladeshi victims.

Another 17 hostages, nine Italians, seven Japanese and one Indian, were killed in the attack—many of them tortured with sharp instruments, according to police.

Those bodies were to be flown back to their home countries later Monday. Another two police officers were killed on Friday night when police engaged the attackers in a gun battle.

The stadium vigil was visited by hundreds of Dhaka residents, paying their respects to the victims.

A Catholic Mass, Islamic prayer sessions and a candlelight vigil were being held throughout Monday.

where the siege occurred. Investigators from both Bangladesh and Japan visited the restaurant to collect evidence.

The 20 hostages who were killed included nine Italians, seven Japanese, three Bangladeshis and one Indian teenager. Two police officers were killed by the attackers, and 13 people were rescued when commandos stormed the restaurant Saturday morning. Another 25 officers and one civilian were wounded, and some of the rescued hostages had injuries. The hospitals

treating them would not give fresh information on their conditions Sunday.

The attack was the worst in the recent series of attacks by radical Islamists in the moderate, mostly Muslim nation of 160 million. Unlike the previous attacks, the assailants were well-prepared and heavily armed with guns, bombs and sharp objects that police later said were used to torture some of the 35 captives.

That the attackers targeted a popular restaurant in the

heart of the diplomatic quarter of Bangladesh's capital signaled a change in tactics. The restaurant overlooking a lake serves Spanish food and is patronized by residents of Gulshan, an affluent neighborhood where most of the foreign embassies are located.

The hostages were asked to recite verses from the Quran, to prove themselves Muslim, according to a witness. Those who passed were allowed to eat. Those who failed were tortured and slain.

## New PH president says he won't be a dictator

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippines' new president said Friday he "will go to the extreme" in his battle to end crime and cleanse the police force of wrongdoers within six months, but pledged he won't become a dictator.

Rodrigo Duterte said in a speech to the police that he is not afraid of being impeached by Congress while fighting crime and assured officers he would protect them if they kill large numbers of people while cracking down on lawlessness. The crackdown, he warned, will extend to the 170,000-strong police force.

"I am warning you, I will be harsh," Duterte said. "I will go to the extreme."

As a former prosecutor who charged erring policemen and soldiers in his southern city of Davao for years, Duterte said he knows how to detect corrupt military and police personnel, some of whom are

involved in the illegal drug trade. The records of all policemen linked to crimes will be reviewed, he said.

"Do your duty," Duterte said. "If in the process you kill 1,000 persons because you were doing your duty ... I will protect you, and if they will try to impeach me, I will hurry up the process and we go out of the service together."

Duterte was inaugurated Thursday in austere rites at Manila's Malacanang presidential palace after winning May 9 elections on a promise to eradicate crime and corruption in three to six months, an ambitious plan that has sparked alarm. Human rights watchdogs have warned Duterte against resorting to shortcuts and abuses.

Duterte said he would go hard on crime, but "I do not want to be a dictator."

In recent weeks, dozens of suspected drug dealers have been killed, either in report-

ed gunbattles with police or under mysterious circumstances. On Friday, 10 drug dealers were killed separately in gunfights with police in Bulacan province north of Manila as the nationwide crackdown commenced, according to police.

Duterte expressed particular anger against convicted drug traffickers who continue to deal secretly in methamphetamines at the national penitentiary in metropolitan Manila. He suggested a potentially bloody crackdown was imminent at the heavily guarded prison.

"You're putting the government to shame. You're slapping us. You should count hours, I don't like days," Duterte said.

Hundreds of drug addicts and pushers have surrendered to authorities in recent weeks, concerned they would be killed in the crackdown, officials said.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### US senators visit onetime al-Qaida stronghold in Pakistan

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—Pakistan says a U.S. Senate delegation has paid a rare visit to a tribal region along the Afghanistan border that has long been considered a stronghold of al-Qaida, the Taliban and other insurgents. The Foreign Office said in a statement that the delegation led by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. and chairman of the Armed Services Committee, visited the North Waziristan tribal region on Sunday. Foreigners are largely banned from the tribal region, where Pakistan has been waging a military offensive to root out insurgents for two years. The U.S. frequently carries out drone strikes in the region targeting Taliban and al-Qaida leaders.

#### Plane makes emergency landing in Sydney after hitting bird

**SYDNEY** (AP)—A United Airlines flight from Sydney to Los Angeles was forced to make an emergency landing after striking a bird. United Airlines spokesman Jonathan Guerin says Flight 840 struck the bird shortly after takeoff from Sydney Airport on Monday morning. The plane turned around and landed safely a

short time later. No one on board was injured. Guerin says the plane has been temporarily taken out of rotation for maintenance. The extent of the damage to the plane was not immediately known.

#### Nepal investigating Indian couple's Everest summit claim

**KATHMANDU, Nepal** (AP)—A Nepalese tourism official says the government is investigating a climbing claim by an Indian couple who are accused of altering photographs of themselves on the summit of Mount Everest. Chief of Nepal's Department of Tourism, Sudarshan Dhakal, said Monday that authorities are reviewing the Everest climb by Dinesh Rathod and his wife Tarakeshwari on May 21. The couple were issued climber's certificates from the Nepal government after they presented a photograph of themselves on the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) summit. Fellow climbers, however, say the couple never reached the summit and used someone else's photographs to get the climbing certificate. If the accusation is found to be true, the couple would lose their certificates and be banned from climbing any mountains in Nepal.



## World

## Syria's new US-backed force stumbles in first test

**BEIRUT (AP)**—The call came around noon, about four hours after U.S.-backed Syrian fighters announced they had taken over an air base outside a town held by the Islamic State group near the Iraqi border. “We are trapped. Pray for us,” a commander called into the operation room.

Then communication was cut. Six hours later, the exhausted fighters from the group, known as the New Syrian Army, returned to their base in Tanf, nearly 150 miles (240 kilometers) across the desert to the west, having lost four fighters, four vehicles and ammunition.

The swift, humiliating defeat last Wednesday marked the end of a widely advertised offensive launched less than 24 hours earlier with intense U.S.-led air cover. The fighters had hoped to capture Boukamal, a prize possession of IS and the extremist group's last border crossing between Iraq and Syria.

The Boukamal offensive was the first serious attempt to take on IS in the northeastern province of Deir el-Zour, and the first major test for the nascent force of some 1,000 fighters, formed in November from a coalition of Syrian army defectors, local militias and Islamist fighting groups, many of them from the area.

The quick collapse of the offensive reflects the difficulties the U.S. faces in creating an effective Syrian force against IS, given the complex terrain, competing personal and tribal loyalties—and the extremists' continued ability to fight on multiple fronts.

The U.S. has struggled to find local partners in Syria. The exception has been the Kurds, who heavily dominate the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, which have had success wresting territory from IS in the north.

All other known attempts to train rebel groups have



This file photo released Tuesday June 28, 2016 by the New Syrian Army, an anti-government rebel group, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows U.S.-backed Syrian rebels of the New Syrian Army running in an unknown place in Syria.

largely failed, in part because of Washington's focus on the fight against IS rather than toppling the Syrian government, and its failure to protect its partners from better-equipped rivals.

The offensive on Boukamal, a city of nearly 160,000

people along the Euphrates River—mostly Sunni Arab tribes that move freely between Iraq and Syria—aimed to take advantage of IS' focus on defending its northern stronghold of Manbij, which is under attack by the SDF.

Some 200 New Syrian

Army fighters took part in the Boukamal operation, according to activists and media reports. They had extensive air support from the U.S.-led coalition, a vote of confidence in the new force, said Jennifer Cafarella, of the Institute for the Study of War. But the group “is definitely not off to a good start,” she told The Associated Press.

Commanders of the U.S.-backed militia say they have

received extensive training since June last year by U.S. and British special forces, with the Jordanian military playing an advisory role. Activists and observers say the group appears to have equipment and weapons not often seen with other rebels, such as special vehicles for difficult terrain and exclusively U.S.-made small arms.

U.S. officials have not specified the extent of their support for the group, which has been channeled through the Pentagon. The U.S. military refers to the New Syrian Army as a “partner.”

The group's first major operation—though much smaller than the Boukamal push—was in March, when it took over Tanf, a smaller IS-held crossing on the border with Jordan.

## Suicide bomber hits near US diplomatic site in Saudi Arabia

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)**—A suicide bomber carried out an attack early on Monday near a U.S. diplomatic site in the western Saudi city of Jiddah, according to the Interior Ministry.

The ministry said the attacker detonated his suicide vest when security guards approached him near the parking lot of a hospital. The attacker died and two security men were wounded with minor injuries, according to the ministry statement, which was published by the state-run Saudi Press Agency. Some cars in the parking lot were damaged.

Interior Ministry spokes-

man Maj. Gen. Mansour al-Turki was quoted in the statement as saying the attacker caught the attention of the security guards, who noticed he was acting suspiciously at an intersection located on the corner of the heavily fortified U.S. Consulate in Jiddah, located by the Dr. Soliman Fakeeh Hospital. Most of the consulate's staff had reportedly moved offices to a new location.

The U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia confirmed there were no casualties or injuries among the consular staff. The embassy said it remains in contact with Saudi authorities as they investigate the attack.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for attack.

The Interior Ministry did not specify if it there are indications the bomber intended to target the U.S. diplomatic compound, saying an investigation was underway to determine his identity.

A 2004 al-Qaida-linked militant attack on the U.S. Consulate in Jiddah killed five locally hired consular employees and four gunmen. The three-hour battle on the compound came amid a wave of al-Qaida attacks targeting Westerners and Saudi security posts.

More recently, Saudi Arabia has been a target of Islamic

State group attacks that have killed dozens of people. The extremist Sunni group views the Western-allied Saudi monarchy and government as heretics. Saudi Arabia is part of the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

In June, the Interior Ministry reported 26 terror attacks had taken place in the kingdom in the last two years. Local affiliates of the IS group have targeted minority Shiites and security officials.

Monday's attack comes just days before the end of the holy month of Ramadan, during which observant Muslims fast daily from dawn to dusk.

## Israelis mourn Elie Wiesel as one of their own

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Elie Wiesel never lived in Israel, but on Sunday the country mourned the death of the esteemed author and Nobel peace laureate as though it had lost a national icon.

A frequent visitor who was fluent in Hebrew, Wiesel was a confidant of prime ministers and a towering cultural figure so revered that two premiers considered nominating him to be the country's ceremonial president.

His unwavering support for Israel proved divisive at times, with critics arguing that he ignored the suffering of the Palestinians and backed Israeli settlements. He also waded into last year's debate over the nuclear deal with Iran, attending an address by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the U.S. Congress that angered the White House.

As perhaps the world's most famous Holocaust survivor, Wiesel was championed by Israeli leaders as a symbol of the Jewish people's journey from the depths of despair to the redemption of having a land of their own. His enduring legacy of “Never Again” mirrored the psyche of a nation built on the ashes of the Nazi genocide of 6 million Jews and facing con-

stant strife in the Middle East.

“Your voice will continue to be heard. It is ingrained in our nation,” eulogized Shimon Peres, the former president and a fellow Nobel peace laureate. “Our people have known darkness and terrible danger, but also amazing rebirth. This is what allows us to continue on.”

Wiesel's connection to Israel began immediately after it gained independence in 1948, when he arrived to the newborn state as a foreign correspondent for a French newspaper. He later worked as a roving reporter for an Israeli daily.

He moved to New York in 1956, and gained fame with the publication of his landmark Holocaust book “Night.” He became an American citizen, published dozens of books and later hobnobbed with presidents who welcomed him to the White House and tasked him with planning an American Holocaust memorial museum. He received the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

But in many ways his heart remained in Israel, a place he visited three times a year. In 1961, he covered the trial of Nazi mastermind Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem. In 1969, he married his wife there.

## WORLD BRIEFS

## German EU official urges action against Spain, Portugal

**BERLIN (AP)**—Germany's European Union commissioner is pressing for action against Spain and Portugal for failing to meet their budget targets, arguing that Brussels must act to maintain its credibility. The EU's executive Commission refrained in May from imposing immediate fines, saying it would revisit the situation in July. The EU wants countries to keep their budget deficits below 3 percent of their annual GDP. Though countries can be fined up to 0.2 percent of their GDP if they fail to implement measures to meet the limits, no nation has yet been fined.

Commissioner Guenther Oettinger was quoted Monday as telling German daily Bild: “If the Commission wants to preserve its credibility on upholding budget rules, we have to approve sanctions against Spain and Portugal.”

## Greek businessman's death ruled a suicide

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)**—A Greek oil executive, whose company filed for bankruptcy last month, killed himself at his home in an Athens suburb on Sunday, according to a medical examiner's report. Kyriakos Mamidakis, 84, was chairman of the board of Mamidoil-Jetoil, an oil company that is active in Greece and the Balkans and

operates about 600 gas stations. Although police were still investigating his death, they said they have found no signs of foul play. Mamidoil-Jetoil filed for bankruptcy on June 9, declaring that it owed creditors 314 million euros (\$350 million) at the end of 2015, while having cash reserves of 600,000 (\$668,000). Mamidakis was also involved in hotel management, shipping, and olive oil and wine production.

## Flight cancellations strand hundreds at Barcelona airport

**BARCELONA, Spain (AP)**—Hundreds of passengers have been stranded at Barcelona's airport because

of major delays and cancellations involving Spanish airline Vueling. Problems started Friday, coinciding with the start of summer vacation for many passengers departing or going through Barcelona's airport. Delays of up to 20 hours provoked a domino-effect that kept rippling through Sunday at El Prat airport, with scenes of stranded travelers seeking answers. The local government summoned Vueling for an explanatory hearing on Monday, with the threat of possible sanctions. The company, founded in 2004, acknowledged problems with operations, saying they will try to reinforce shifts. The airline confirmed 14 cancellations on Sunday.



## Overdrive

**AUTO REVIEW:**By **JIM MATEJA**  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## 2016 Mini Cooper S Clubman gets big, bruh

BMW's Mini division has always delivered on the promise of cute and cuddly, but for 2016 it has added cozy and comfortable as well, thanks to stretching its top-of-the-line Clubman model from a sub-compact into a compact.

It is nearly a foot longer, 2.9 inches wider, and the wheelbase is extended by 4 inches, giving it not only a more secure stance on the road to enhance both ride and handling, but also more generous room inside the cabin to stretch limbs.

The fact you can now wiggle or jiggle any extremity—feet, legs, arms, and even melon without making contact with a door panel, seat back, roof liner, or any other human sharing space with you in the cabin proves a welcome change.

Clubman comes in base Cooper, Cooper S, and Cooper S All4 versions. The All4 features AWD, the others are front drive. Clubman, as in the past, has twin rear cargo doors that swing out, but now comes with four traditional side doors. The previous version had two front doors, but only one abbreviated side door to serve row two.

The base Cooper starts at \$24,100 with a 1.5-liter, 134-horsepower twin-turbo three-cylinder teamed with either six-speed manual or six-speed automatic. The Cooper S starts at \$27,650 with a 2-liter, 189-horsepower twin-turbo four-cylinder engine teamed with either six-speed manual or a new eight-speed automatic. The Cooper S All4 AWD unit starts at \$29,450 and also comes with the 2-liter with either the six-



TNS  
The 2016 Mini Clubman has rear barn doors.

speed manual or eight-speed automatic, and is tuned to deliver more low-end torque for quicker off the line moves.

We tested the Cooper S Clubman with the 2-liter twin-turbo four-cylinder engine and six-speed manual transmission. Lively for sure and the twin turbos assist the launch assist, just don't expect flames to shoot out the exhaust at takeoff and no need to attach a chute to the tail to help bring it to a stop since the car tips the scales at a hefty 3,300 pounds—minus people and their possessions.

A couple of gripes with

the manual, one being that it would be appreciated if clutch and brake pedals were better aligned with driver feet and legs, and not at a slight angle to the side. If blessed (saddled?) with 3E sneakers, you'll find clutch and brake rather close together.

The Cooper S Clubman has good road manners and darts into and out of corners with confidence. It features stability control and cornering braking control, and the 17-inch wheels provide road-holding assurance.

For the snow belt, the All4 AWD version would be a wise

investment at about \$1,800 more than FWD. Sun Belt owners can settle for FWD.

Cabin room is generous and seats five. Cargo hold storage handles a few pieces of luggage or duffel bags filled with gear. Second row seat backs fold flat to hold more luggage, gear, groceries, even lumber if needed. A pull shade behind the rear seat backs conceals any items in the cargo hold. If more carrying capacity is needed, press the button, remove shade, and tall packages, even bikes, will now fit in back.

There's also stowage space

built into both front and side doors, clever bins are carved into the swing-out rear doors, and the rear cargo floor lifts up to reveal a large bin underneath.

The swing-out doors open manually by pulling the handles or automatically (right side) by pressing the key fob. The optional comfort access package lets you kick a foot under the rear bumper to power the right rear door open, magic like Ford employs on selected SUVs.

All instrumentation is easy to see and use and a twist command dial in the center con-

sole calls up all the systems you need to use, from radio settings to phone activation to summoning roadside assistance if needed.

The new Mini Clubman comes with an array of standard equipment, including infotainment system with 6.5-inch high-resolution display, Bluetooth audio streaming and voice control; sports seats with thigh support; choice of sport or eco mode shift points and engine power for performance or high mileage motoring; dual zone climate control; rain sensing wipers; halogen fog lights; and black leatherette seat covers, to name just some.

Options include dual pane power sunroof, navigation system and rearview camera, none of which were on the test car, which did add run-flat radials at \$500, comfort access/keyless entry at \$500, heated front seats at \$500, rear end park distance control sensing at \$500, gray metallic paint at \$500 and LED headlights at \$1,000.

The largest Mini comes nicely equipped, with good mileage and performance, but the eight-speed automatic has an edge in quickness and economy.

**NUTS & BOLTS****2016 Mini Cooper S Clubman**

- Vehicle type: Compact
- Base price: \$27,650
- As tested: \$31,150 (excluding \$850 destination)
- Mpg: 24 city, 34 highway
- Engine: 2-liter, twin-turbo four-cylinder
- Transmission: Six-speed manual
- Parting shot: Bigger dimensions nicely fill out

**MOTERING Q&A: OK to go 10,000 miles on synthetic oil?**By **PAUL BRAND**  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**Q: I have a 2009 Honda Civic and regularly change its oil when the car's maintenance reminder indicates it's time. I use synthetic oil and was recently told by my oil-change shop that synthetic oil lasts twice as long as conventional oil. Is this true? Considering the maintenance reminder likely does not take into account that the car is running synthetic oil, am I changing my oil twice as often as needed?**

**A:** Honda service literature specifies using a 5W-20 motor oil and changing it at 10,000-mile intervals under "normal" driving or 5,000-mile intervals

under "severe service" conditions. Assuming the maintenance reminder indicates it's time to change oil when you're close to the 10,000-mile mark, you are definitely not changing oil too frequently.

In fact, you're braver than I am. I've never been able to wait 10,000 miles or until the oil service reminder indicates it's time for an oil change; I'm just not comfortable waiting that long. Engine sludge buildup occurs as oil is oxidized over time and mileage. Problems from engine sludge still occur, even with today's engine technology and lubricants.

And you are correct: The maintenance monitor doesn't know whether the engine is filled with conventional or

synthetic lubricant. Nor does Honda differentiate between the two types of lubricants in terms of oil change intervals.

My personal feeling is that you're actually changing oil roughly half as frequently as you should. I use 5,000 miles as my guide for oil and filter changes. More frequent oil change intervals are cheap insurance for your vehicle. And remember, it absolutely is your vehicle and you, not Honda nor the oil-change shop, are responsible for any repairs it may need.

**Q: I own a 2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee with a 5.7-liter Hemi engine. While driving in economy mode, I often hear a clicking noise, which only goes away after I accelerate and vehicle shifts out**

**of economy mode. This noise seems to be getting louder, and other people notice it.**

**The vehicle runs OK, and checking it with a diagnostic scan tool has produced no trouble codes.**

**Is it normal for engines with a multiple displacement system, like my Jeep's, to make clicking noises and get louder as they get older, or is this a problem developing?**

**A:** As I described in last week's column, engines that utilize some form of cylinder deactivation to improve fuel economy under cruise or low-load conditions do so by disabling valve operation on specific cylinders. General Motors calls it active fuel management. Chrysler calls it

a multiple displacement system, or MDS. On your 5.7-liter V-8, the system selectively disables the first, fourth, sixth and seventh cylinders.

Oil pressure controlled by the MDS solenoids is utilized to deactivate the hydraulic lifters for those cylinders. When the solenoid opens in economy mode, oil pressure is applied to a "lost link" pin that collapses the lifter to prevent it from opening its valve. While the lifter is deactivated, a light spring inside the lifter keeps the lifter base in contact with the camshaft lobe while the upper section of the lifter is stationary. There should be no significant noise from operation when the lifters are deactivated.

My best guess is that one

of these lifters is at fault. Perhaps there's a problem with the internal spring failing to keep the base in contact with the camshaft, allowing excess clearance in the valvetrain and creating the clicking sound. Or perhaps the issue is with one of the MDS solenoids.

Also, be aware that all cylinder deactivation systems are very sensitive to oil viscosity, oil pressure and oil cleanliness. Chrysler recommends 5W-20 motor oil changed at 8,000-mile intervals. See my comments above.

Start with a scan of the powertrain control module to see if there are any oil pressure or P3400-series MDS fault codes. Chrysler's scan tool can test the individual solenoids of the MDS system.



## Life & Style

# Boston's signature July Fourth fete faces uncertain future

**BOSTON (AP)**—This Fourth of July, the cannons will roar and the fireworks will burst in brilliant colors as a world class orchestra drives home the climactic finale of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," as they have for decades over Boston's Charles River.

Pop stars Nick Jonas and Demi Lovato and country group Little Big Town will entertain the over 500,000 expected to attend and the millions more across the country watching live on CBS.

But the future of the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular—one of the nation's signature Independence Day celebrations—is uncertain.

Businessman and philanthropist David Mugar is stepping down as founder and executive director of the celebration after 43 years and it's not clear who's going to fill the sponsorship and leadership void.

Longtime sponsor and Boston-based insurance giant Liberty Mutual decided not to renew its contract last year.

And Mugar, whose family founded the Star Market grocery chain in the Boston area, couldn't secure another financial backer. So he's covering the over \$2 million production cost for this year's event from his personal wealth.

Mugar, 77, said he wants to devote more time to his other ventures.

"I'm disappointed but I'm not discouraged," he said earlier this week, as he oversaw preparations on Boston's waterfront esplanade. "I don't



AP  
In this July 3, 2015 file photo, fireworks shoot from the top of the Hatch Shell in Boston during rehearsal for the annual annual Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular.

know why it's the case that no one has come forward yet. We're a perfect product. There's no controversy around it."

To be sure, others are contributing to this year's production.

The Boston Pops orchestra donates its performance. Security costs largely fall on the state and city. And CBS is footing the bill for the telecast, including the performers' fees.

But Boston's struggles to find a primary sponsor reflects a common challenge facing Independence Day

celebrations across the country. Other events are also dealing with rising insurance costs and depleted city and state coffers.

In neighboring Connecticut, for example, the state's largest Independence Day celebration, Riverfest, was cancelled this year after the host cities of Hartford and East Hartford said they couldn't justify their roughly \$100,000 share of the costs in the face of budget problems being felt across the state.

Smaller towns and cities around

the United States have had to cut fireworks' shows each year, some even turning to crowdfunding donations to keep it going.

Ian Cross, who teaches marketing at Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts, suggests companies are weighing the marketing potential of sponsoring a one-off event like a fireworks show and finding the costs outweigh the benefits.

"New marketing is about efficient use of money targeted at a carefully selected audience," he said. "But

who is the firework audience? Everyone and no one. Maybe it's so general that it's difficult to target a specific business opportunity."

Boston residents relaxing along the esplanade earlier last week said they're a little concerned and surprised at the uncertainty surrounding the event's future.

"I think it would be really bad if it didn't happen," said Brian Harrington, 48. "It's so important for the city and the country. It's just a joyous occasion."

Resident Fatima Green said she was optimistic it will all work out before next year.

"The problem is that everyone is looking for something in return. They're not looking to do it from the same generosity that he's had," the 31-year old said, referring to Mugar. "This is about celebrating the independence we fought so hard to get. We got to keep it that way."

As for Mugar, he's open to helping as an adviser going forward but says he's trying to enjoy his last ride at the helm.

"It's nostalgic, of course. It's been a long run and I've met some wonderful people. But I agree with the Bill Belichick philosophy," Mugar said, referring to the New England Patriots' famously tight-lipped coach. "We've got a 2016 show to put on and we'll start working on 2017 afterward. Right now, we're all focused on 2016."

## 'Black girl magic' on display at The Colored Girls Museum

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—Nestled in Philadelphia's historic Germantown neighborhood, the Victorian facade of The Colored Girls Museum beckons visitors past its gate, up the flower-lined path and onto the inviting wraparound porch.

Inside, objects ranging from quilts to a bag of black-eyed peas honor the culture and experiences of what museum founder and artist Vashti Dubois calls "everyday black girls."

"This museum is a celebration of the ordinary, extraordinary colored girl," said Dubois. Referring to the house as a living thing, she adds: "She's speaking to the girl in us."

The 127-year-old home with high, earth-toned walls is filled with art, artifacts and treasures that take visitors on a communal journey of loss, joy, healing and memory.

In one corner, spectacles and a piece of peppermint candy sit on the open pages of a Bible. In another room, brown-faced dolls beg to be picked up and have their yarn hair stroked.

Bright quilts hang on walls and lie folded across chairs and shelves, adorned with the words, images and even the clothing scraps—buttons, a piece of a nightgown—of previous generations.

The sight of a bag of black-eyed peas lying in the kitchen can trigger a smile of recognition among visitors who grew up eating this staple of African-American home cooking. In the sitting room, hanging fans memorialize four black girls killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963.

Many rooms display books that have provided refuge and affirmation for countless black girls, including well-worn titles by African-American women like Maya Angelou, Toni Cade Bambara, Zora Neale Hurston. The house is also filled with music that has served as the soundtrack for several generations of Saturday morning chores and Friday night parties, from Nina Simone to Michael Jackson.

Together, the artifacts are transformed into treasures



AP  
In this July 1, 2016 photo, an open Bible, a pair of spectacles and a piece of peppermint resting on the pages is displayed in a room dedicated to black laundresses at The Colored Girls Museum in the Germantown section of Philadelphia.

connecting visitors to the culture of black girls, the women who love and nurture them in an often hostile world, and the collective strength of black women past and present.

Museum board member and writer Barbara Neely says there is power in these displays of "the things we have handled and the things that we use ... almost like a physical salve. Being here is like being healed and centered."

For Neely, one doll in par-

ticular transported her back to her black girlhood in northern Pennsylvania.

"By the time I was in my late teens, all I wanted to do was get the hell out of there," Neely recalled, remembering the racism she encountered. "I do not spend a lot of time thinking about that. But something about that doll reminded me that I'd thrown the baby out with the bath water." She says the museum helps visitors "reclaim those things that

we knew were valuable, but that we were told were not."

The museum opened last year. Each room is curated by a different artist and dedicated to different black women, some famous, some not, with their work and objects shown alongside Dubois' family belongings. Many displays are personal tributes to mothers and grandmothers, black women plain and proud, whose lives offer lessons.

"When you think about a museum, about who even visits a museum, it's not ordinary girls and women of color," said artist Marie-Monique Marthol-Clark, one of the artist curators. But this museum "brings us from the margins to the center and elevates us, not only those who are celebrities or have a certain degree of accomplishment."

One room, dedicated to black laundresses, shows off a grandmother's Sunday best: the dress and hat she wore to church on the one day a week that belonged to her and not the white family she worked for. Her bottle of French perfume sits on an end table near-

by. Langston Hughes' poem "A Song to a Negro Wash-Woman" is also on display.

In the back of the house, a toolshed curated by Marthol-Clark is dedicated to a celebration of creativity as "a survival tool."

"When you use something on a day-to-day basis, you may not recognize that as a gift and a skill," she said. "We may even take that for granted because everyone else does. So this is about correcting and curing that."

If You Go...

**THE COLORED GIRLS MUSEUM:** 4613 Newhall St., Philadelphia, <http://www.thecoloredgirlsmuseum.com>. Open Sundays noon-4 p.m. and by appointment. Suggested \$10 donation. On July 9, the museum hosts its first pop-up festival at the Philadelphia Fringe Arts Center, a community dance party with music, artists and vendors in celebration of "black girl magic," a cultural catchphrase that has become a popular social media hashtag. This fall, the museum presents its first exhibit, "A Good Night's Sleep" at the center's Fringe Festival.



# 'Tarzan,' 'BFG' dwarfed by 'Dory,' which stays No. 1

**NEW YORK (AP)**—It's Dory's ocean. The rest of the movies are just swimming in it.

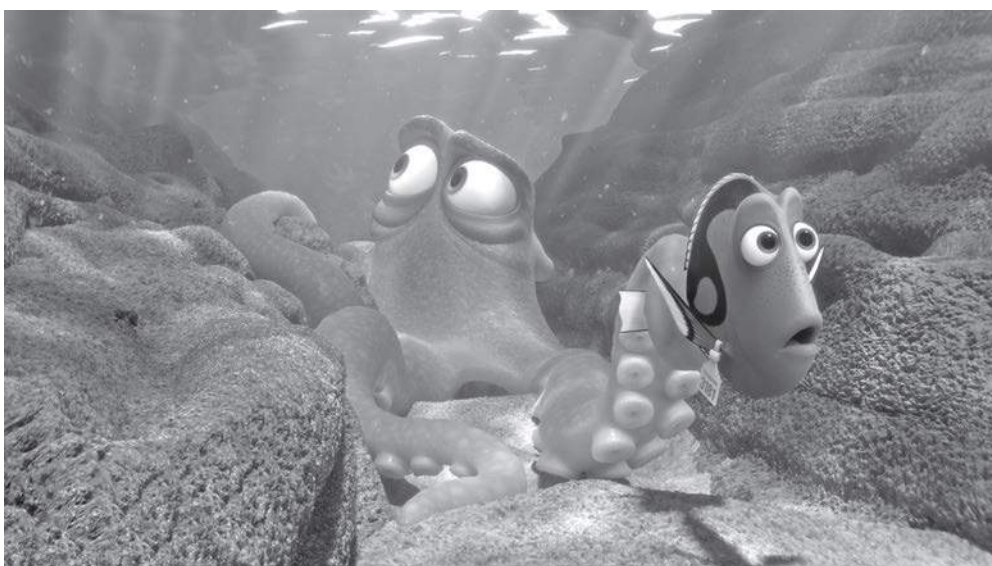
The Pixar sequel "Finding Dory" led the box office for the third straight weekend, dwarfing "The Legend of Tarzan" and Steven Spielberg's Roald Dahl adaption "The BFG," both big-budget debuts that had hoped to dominate the July 4th holiday.

But modest enthusiasm for the high-profile new releases left the weekend to "Dory" again, which came in No. 1 with \$41.9 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. Disney expects the film to make about \$50 million over

the four-day holiday weekend. It's grossed \$538.2 million globally in three weeks.

"Tarzan" came the closest to dethroning "Dory" with \$38.1 million. While that total was better than expected, it's far from chest-thumping for a movie that cost Warner Bros. \$180 million to make. Critics largely panned the David Yates-directed film, starring Alexander Skarsgard as the King of the Jungle and Margot Robbie as Jane. But audiences gave it a respectable A-minus CinemaScore.

"We're in a much better place today than we thought we were going to be," said Jeff



This image released by Disney shows the characters Hank, voiced by Ed O'Neill, left, and Dory, voiced by Ellen DeGeneres, in a scene from "Finding Dory."

July," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "In terms of the cumulative numbers, it was a really good showing, though individual films may have had their challenges."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final four-day domestic figures will be released Tuesday.

## Iranian sculptor Tanavoli blocked from leaving the country

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)**—Famed Iranian sculptor Parviz Tanavoli said Sunday he has been barred from leaving the country without explanation while trying to travel to Britain.

Authorities confiscated the artist's passport early Saturday morning while he tried to board a flight out of Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport. He had been scheduled to give lectures at the British Museum and Asia House in London.

Tanavoli told The Associated Press that he does not know why he was prevented from leaving. Immigration authorities directed him to the country's main passport office, but he came back empty-handed after spending several hours there.

"They said absolutely there

is nothing we can do," the 79-year-old artist said. "They tell me it's not political but they don't tell me what it is."

Iranian officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

One of Iran's best-known living artists, Tanavoli is associated with the Saqqakhaneh artistic movement, which began in the 1960s and draws on traditional Persian and Shiite folk themes. His bronze work "The Wall" ("Oh, Persepolis") fetched \$2.84 million at a 2008 Dubai auction, then a record price for a Middle East artist.

He travels twice a year between Canada and Iran, and frequently pays visits to Europe and elsewhere without problems, he said. In February last year, he was in the Boston area for his first solo retrospective in the U.S.

Goldstein, head of distribution for Warner Bros. "We're positively looking forward. Friday came in much stronger than we thought. Yesterday was much stronger than we thought."

The horror sequel "The Purge: Election Year" opened solidly with \$30.9 million, in line with previous "Purge" installments where crime in America is legal for 12 hours every year. Given that the Universal release, produced by Blumhouse Productions, cost a mere \$10 million to make, it was the most lucrative opening of the week.

The continued success of "Dory," however, bit into the similarly family-friendly "The BFG," which debuted weakly with \$19.6 million. The Spielberg film, starring Mark Rylance as the titular giant, cost about \$140 million to make. Reviews were largely good but not glowing. Despite a red-carpet premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, Spielberg's first

film for Disney didn't click with audiences.

"It's frustrating when there's a disconnect between the critical response and ultimately the box office," said Dave Hollis, distribution head for Disney. "But we've got every reason to be hopeful for the midweek business ahead, every reason to be hopeful for a nice long run. And we've only opened in two international markets: Australia and Russia."

The weekend's tailor-made option, "Independence Day: Resurgence," had hoped to open big last week and play through the holiday weekend. Instead, the 20th Century Fox release bombed and dropped steeply in its second week, sliding 60 percent to \$16.5 million in fifth place.

The diverse slate of releases didn't produce a runaway hit, but overall business was up in theaters from recent July 4th weekends, partially since the holiday fell on a Monday this

year.

"Considering the roller-coaster year we've been having, this was a solid Fourth of

1. "Finding Dory," \$41.9 million (\$34.4 million international).
2. "The Legend of Tarzan," \$38.1 million (\$18.8 million international).
3. "The Purge: Election Year," \$30.9 million (\$130,000 international).
4. "The BFG," \$19.6 million (\$3.9 million international).
5. "Independence Day: Resurgence," \$16.5 million (\$40.2 million international).
6. "Central Intelligence," \$12.3 million (\$13.8 million international).
7. "The Shallows," \$9 million.
8. "Free State of Jones," \$4.1 million.
9. "The Conjuring 2," \$3.9 million (\$13.1 million international).
10. "Now You See Me 2," \$3 million (\$20.8 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Independence Day: Resurgence," \$40.2 million.
2. "Finding Dory," \$34.4 million.
3. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows," \$30.5 million.
4. "Now You See Me 2," \$20.8 million.
5. "Ice Age: Collision Course," \$20 million.
6. "The Legend of Tarzan," \$18.8 million.
7. "Bounty Hunters," \$16.4 million.
8. "Central Intelligence," \$13.8 million.
9. "The Conjuring 2," \$13.1 million.
10. "Me Before You," \$12.2 million.

## Abuser preyed on woman's fear of being alone, unloved

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently had my lover of 11 years arrested for domestic violence. It was the hardest thing I have ever done. He had me isolated and cut off from the world, and without family around, I felt extremely lonely and fragile. Looking back, I see how wanting to be loved and not alone caused me to let so many intolerable things happen.

No one should ever have to be bruised and battered physically, psychologically and verbally by anyone. I pray others read this and will do the right thing -- which is to press charges if necessary and find the strength to leave, as painful as it may be.

STARTING COUNSELING SOON IN L.A.

**DEAR STARTING:** I'm glad you found the strength to do that. Counseling will help. Trust me on that. Readers: I haven't printed the warning signs of an abuser in a while, so here they are:

1. **PUSHES FOR QUICK INVOLVEMENT:** Comes on strong, claiming, "I've never felt loved like this by anyone." An abuser pressures the new partner for an exclusive commitment almost immediately.

2. **JEALOUS:** Excessively possessive; calls constantly or visits unexpectedly; prevents you from going to work because "you might meet someone"; checks the mileage on your car.

3. **CONTROLLING:** If you are late, interrogates you intensely about whom you talked to and where you were; keeps all the money; insists you ask permission to go anywhere or do anything.

4. **UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS:** Expects you to be the perfect mate and meet his or her every need.

5. **ISOLATION:** Tries to isolate you from family and friends; accuses people who are your supporters of "causing trouble." The abuser may deprive you of a phone or car, or try to prevent you from holding a job.

6. **BLAMES OTHERS FOR PROBLEMS OR MISTAKES:** It's always someone else's fault if something goes wrong.

7. **MAKES OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER FEELINGS:** The abuser says, "You make me angry" instead of "I am angry," or says, "You're hurting me by not doing what I tell you."

8. **HYPERSENSITIVITY:** Is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when he or she is really mad. Rants about the injustice of things that are just a part of life.

9. **CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OR CHILDREN:** Kills or punishes animals brutally. Also may expect children to do things that are far beyond their ability (whips a 3-year-old for wetting a diaper) or may tease them until they cry. Sixty-five percent of abusers who beat their partners will also abuse children.

10. **"PLAYFUL" USE OF FORCE DURING SEX:** Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will during sex; finds the idea of rape exciting.

11. **VERBAL ABUSE:** Constantly criticizes or says blatantly cruel things; degrades, curses, calls you ugly names. This may also involve sleep deprivation, waking you with relentless verbal abuse.

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



12. **RIGID GENDER ROLES:** Expects you to serve, obey, remain at home.

13. **SUDDEN MOOD SWINGS:** Switches from sweet to violent in minutes.

14. **PAST BATTERING:** Admits to hitting a mate in the past, but says the person "made" him (or her) do it.

15. **THREATS OF VIOLENCE:** Says things like, "I'll break your neck" or "I'll kill you," and then dismisses them with, "Everybody talks that way," or "I didn't really mean it."

Readers, if you feel you are at risk, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233 or [thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org).

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



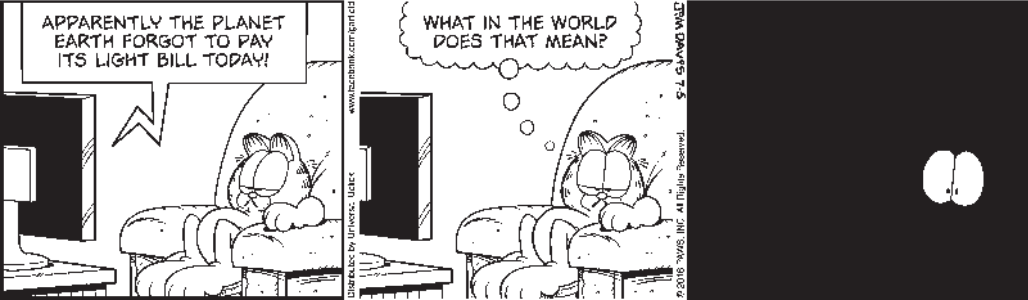
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

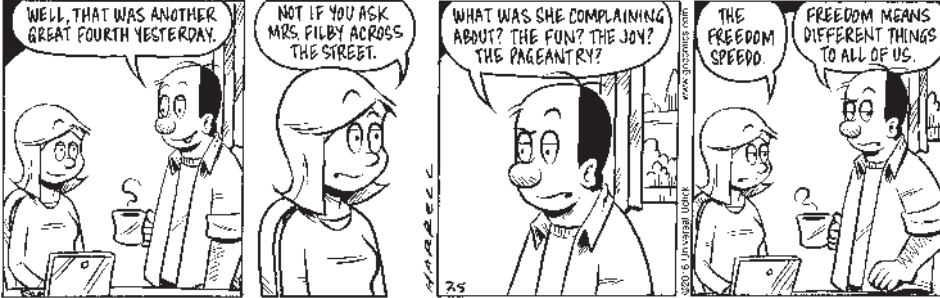


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pong preceder

5 Spell-down

8 Super-hero's garment

12 Dog bane

13 Snaky fish

14 Addict

15 Beach picnic

17 Cribbs

18 A billion years

19 Flexible

21 Irritable

24 Car-toonist

25 Suit to —

26 Non-sense

30 Trail the pack

31 Injury

32 Greek vowel

33 Benny Goodman's instrument

35 Move like a butterfly

36 New newts

37 Penned flower

41 West of Hollywood

42 Part of Q.E.D.

43 Enduring literary works

48 Actress Russo

49 Sawbuck

50 Gator's kin

51 Scent

52 Bro's sib

53 Vow

DOWN

1 Cpl.'s subordinate

2 Unwell

3 PBS funder

4 Repro-ductive cell

5 Noggin

6 "A spider!"

7 GOP symbol

8 Picasso, for one

9 Largest continent

10 Teller's partner

11 Formerly, once

16 Lad

20 "Dragnet" org.

21 Body powder

22 List-ending abbr.

23 Video game giant

24 You're looking at them

26 Gets ahold of

27 Move, in Realtor-speak

28 Bickering

29 Canape spread

31 Laptop connection

34 Tenant

35 Michel-angelo work

37 Existed

38 Goose egg

39 Angered

40 Small iPod

41 Supplies with staff

44 Floral ring

45 401(k) alternative

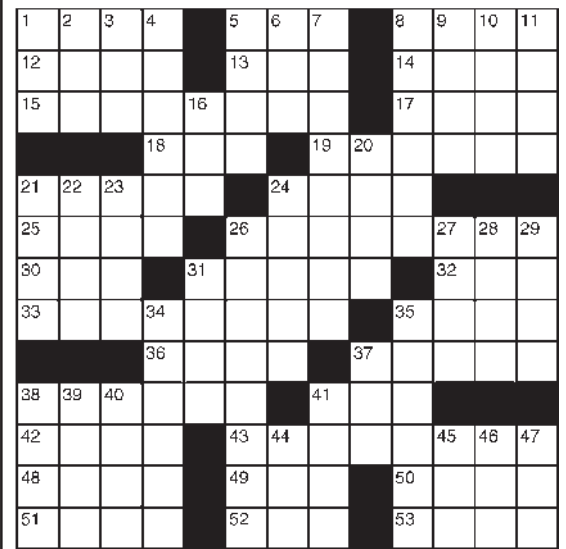
46 Camp bed

47 Learning ctr.

Solution time: 22 mins.

HEY LIMBS DOM  
USO ABFET RNA  
RIL FFRRY YFN  
DER GRASSY  
CUMULI SCPH  
OLA SAWNEES  
OAKS NORHURIP  
KNEEL WESRCA  
MEAN SWAYER  
FIESTA TIC  
ERR KATY PERRY  
TAF EDOLE FOE  
ANY SPFFD KFW

Yesterday's answer 7-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Rapinoe, 31; Dave Haywood, 34; Edie Falco, 53; Huey Lewis, 66.

Happy Birthday: A passionate, no-nonsense approach to life, love and everything else you take part in will bring constructive developments. Strategize and build a solid plan that will help you achieve the happiness you desire. A positive change at home will please those who look up to you. Think big and share your feelings with the people you love. Your numbers are 7, 14, 24, 27, 36, 40, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Bide your time. Don't say or do something you may regret. Getting into a dispute with someone isn't worth your while. Waiting for the right moment to make a strategic change will ensure your success and future happiness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take hold of any situation you face and make choices based on what you want. Being mindful is one thing, but letting someone make decisions for you is another. Your choices should bring greater satisfaction and less regret. Romance is encouraged.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of your responsibilities and move along. Someone will lead you astray if you choose to be a follower. Listen to your heart and do what will bring you closer to your goal, not someone else's dream. Stay positive.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Seize the moment and take advantage of every opportunity. It's OK to take a chance if your intuition tempts you. Nothing ventured; nothing

gained. Use your imagination, explore the possibilities and enjoy the ride.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be too vocal about your plans. Work toward your goals, and when you feel you are ready and the opportunity is right, share your plans with others. Changes to where you live will require attention.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The more you do for others, the better. The help you offer others will be returned eventually, and the experience you gain will encourage you to make personal changes. Children will make suggestions that are innocent, profound and worth noting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Back down if someone taunts you. Getting into a dispute will not bring you closer to your goals. Focus on what needs to be done and work until you feel satisfied that you have done your very best. Observe, reflect and carry on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Gather experience and information, and you will make friends along the way. Your thoughts and suggestions will be well-received and bring you the recognition to keep moving along with your creative pursuits. Make romance a priority.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your eyes open. If someone leads you in a direction you know little about, do your research or back away. The best changes you can make are those that come from within. Avoid impulsive spending.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put more time and effort into important partnerships. Whether personal or professional, it's important to know where you stand and what's expected of you. The more you know, the better. Romance will bring you closer to someone special.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't expect miracles if you are counting on someone else to get things done. Do your best to dig in and do the work yourself if you want to get ahead. Don't let an emotional incident turn into a costly mistake.

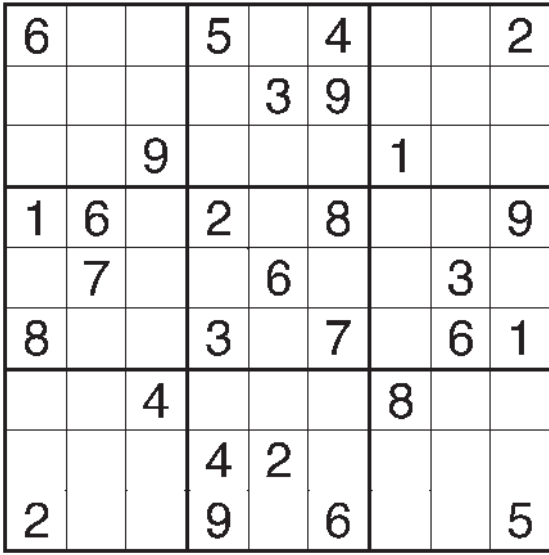
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Network, share ideas and discuss future plans. There is money to be made personally and professionally. Contracts can be negotiated and partnerships formed. Celebrate your choices with someone special and positive plans will develop.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, unique and loyal. You are wise and reliable.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ 7/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	6	7	3	5	4	1	9
4	5	1	8	2	9	6	7	3
9	7	3	6	4	1	2	8	5
7	1	4	9	5	3	8	6	2
3	8	2	1	6	4	9	5	7
6	9	5	2	8	7	1	3	4
5	6	7	4	9	8	3	2	1
2	3	9	5	1	6	7	4	8
1	4	8	3	7	2	5	9	6

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MUHAMMAD ALI (1942-2016) Solution: 11 letters

M D A A S A C O O P M A N T P  
E I N N O L L I S T O N H E U  
E S Y J L L A E F N O T R O N  
P U R A E I Y I G L O V E S C  
O L I B T R G F O R E M A N H  
D L C S C H A M P I O N R O E  
A E H V T T G G R S E E A E S  
E C A E T T E I U B I N G L J  
P R R R A S S I E Z S N H Y A  
O A D O O K S L A W T U A R M  
R M L N N S I R B O Y D I U I  
I F N I A N F L O Y D V L T L  
N Y P C D S E M A N I L A N L  
G S R A S H E D A N A H H E A  
I J N O S T U O K C O N K C H

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Asaad, Belinda, Bell, Boyd, Cassius, Century, Champion, Clay, Coopman, Dunn, Fight, Floyd, Foreman, Frazier, George, Gloves, Hana, Heavyweight, Jabs, Jamillah, Khaliah, Knockouts, Laila, Leon, Liston, Lonnie, Manila, Marcellus, Miya, Names, Norton, Panches, Rasheda, Richard, Ring, Rope-a-Dope, Sonji, Sonny, Spinks, Thrilla, Veronica

Yesterday's Answer: Atmosphere

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47, order online at: [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com). (Contains 43 puzzles.)



# CLASSIFIED ADS

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Opening for Accountant w/ Bridge Capital, LLC in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI. Min Reqs: Bach deg in Accounting (may be foreign equiv); 2 yrs exp as an Accountant; & 1 yr exp using Microsoft Excel & Quickbooks, Real World, Peachtree, or other bus accounting software programs. Provides financial analyses, preparation of financial reports, & financial advice to corp. Send CV to PMB 29, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950; email to [jordan.sundell@bccnmi.com](mailto:jordan.sundell@bccnmi.com) or fax to 670-322-2323. Verif of qualifs req.

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1 Tour Manager: \$1,200-\$1,600/mo. 5 years experience in tour agency management and college degree required. Korean speaking and writing fluency required. Email resume to [jinam@hanmisaipan.com](mailto:jinam@hanmisaipan.com).

1 Tour Coordinator: \$6.05-\$6.55/hr. 3 years' experience required. Korean speaking and writing fluency required.

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2 Accountant/Bokkeeper, minimum wage. Mail resume to Burger & Comer PC at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950.

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**Electrician (02)** **\$6.10 - \$7.50/hour**  
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Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

**Heavy Equipment Operator (05)**  
**\$6.10 - \$8.75/hour**  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as HE Operator. With knowledge how to operate several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machine, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concretes and etc.

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
Run dates: July 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 2016.  
Closing Date: July 07, 2016



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**(43) Fabricated Steel Installer**

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Tel No: (670) 322-0028

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**Qualifications:** Associate Science Degree in Nursing or higher degree is acceptable; Licensed Registered Nurse; Certified Diabetes Educator (certified by National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators); At least two (2) years experience in nursing and health care.

Interested individuals please submit resume to: Emelda M. Ito, [Accountant/Personnel In Charge], Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc. dba Hardt Eye Clinic; Diabetes Education Center located next to Monika's Furniture, Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; or send by facsimile (670) 235-2033; or by e-mail to [hardteye.acctg@gmail.com](mailto:hardteye.acctg@gmail.com).

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$30</b>
• 5-Liner	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$45</b>

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### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

## CANCELLATION

### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

## REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AMENDMENT #01

**Opening Date: June 15, 2016**  
**Closing Date: July 6, 2016**

**Position:** Receptionist  
**Salary:** PL 20/02 - \$15,105.870 to PL 20/08 – \$20,234.110 P/A  
*(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)*

**Job Location:** NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 6, 2016, OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED no later than July 6, 2016, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net). NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**  
Corporate Director

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We are inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

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The front line representatives of the team, individuals in this position are responsible for managing the customer's experience by identifying customer's needs and recommending or promoting the appropriate merchandise, using selling techniques particular to the "Retail Manual" that will be provided. In addition, Sales Associates also process all modes of payment using the POS System and help maintain and enhance the overall appearance of the boutique by maintaining the cleanliness of the store (showcases and displays).  
**Requires:** High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales and must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

**Sales Supervisor (1)**  
This individual will be in charge of the overall management of the boutique. He/she will be responsible for attaining the objectives established for the boutique, effectiveness of the operation, and the competitive position of the company's brand while ensuring a flawless representation of the company at all times. Another important responsibility is the training and development of the Store's sales team.  
**Requires:** High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to [ceti\\_recruitment@tanholdings.com](mailto:ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com). To be considered for immediate interviews, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than July 6, 2016. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.



# Serena gets 300th Slam win at Wimbledon

LONDON (AP)—Serena Williams has won so many Grand Slam matches that she's lost count.

Then again, as she noted Sunday, it's her losses that get a lot more attention nowadays.

Looking much more ready for Week 2 at Wimbledon than she did in her previous outing, Williams joined Martina Navratilova as the only women with 300 victories at major tournaments in the Open era by overwhelming Annika Beck 6-3, 6-0 in 51 minutes to get to the fourth round.

"Every time I step out on the court, if I don't win, it's major national news," Williams said a day after her counterpart in the men's draw, No. 1 and defending champion Novak Djokovic, was ousted. "But if I do win, it's just like a small tag in the corner."

Pushed to three sets her last time out, Williams was about as dominant as can be against her 43rd-ranked German opponent. Nearly perfect, even.

Williams won the last 17 points she served. She won 24 of the last 28 points overall. She accumulated 25 winners to two for Beck.



Afterward, the six-time Wimbledon champion was asked whether she knew she

had reached a milestone by getting her 300th Grand Slam match win, breaking a tie

with Chris Evert for second place behind Navratilova's total of 306.

AP  
Serena Williams of the U.S. returns to Annika Beck of Germany during their women's singles match on day seven of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Sunday, July 3, 2016.

unclaimed green chairs. Spectators applauded politely, if at all. Walkways around the grounds were easy to traverse.

"Strange feeling, a little bit," said No. 7 Richard Gasquet, who helped give France four men in the round of 16 at Wimbledon for the first time since 1929, "because ... I don't see many people around."

His next opponent is another member of that rare quartet, No. 12 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who erased a two-set deficit, then saved a match point, en route to edging No. 18 John Isner of the United States 19-17 in a fifth set that lasted more than 2 hours all by itself.

"It's good to be alive," said Tsonga, now 6-0 in five-setters at the All England Club.

They played three sets before being halted because of darkness Saturday night and finished Sunday.

In other men's matches, No. 32 Lucas Pouille of France got past 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro 6-7 (4), 7-6 (6), 7-5, 6-1; 2010 Wimbledon runner-up Tomas Berdych

defeated 19-year-old Alexander Zverev 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1; No. 15 Nick Kyrgios eliminated No. 22 Feliciano Lopez 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-4 to

set up a showdown against his pal Andy Murray, who is seeded No. 2 and won the 2013 title; and Jiri Vesely defeated No. 31 Joao Sousa 6-2, 6-2, 7-5.

The 13th-seeded Kuznetsova advanced with a 6-7 (1), 6-2, 8-6 victory over No. 18 Sloane Stephens. Other women's winners included No. 21 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Elena Vesnina and Ekaterina Makarova. The woman who ended Williams' bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam in the U.S. Open semifinals last September, Roberta Vinci, failed to put up much of a challenge in a 6-3, 6-4 loss to No. 27 CoCo Vandeweghe.

Vandeweghe won 24 of 28 first-serve points and 14 of 17 points when she went to the net, improving to 11-1 on grass this season.

"Past month or almost two months," said Vandeweghe, a 2015 Wimbledon quarter-finalist, "I've been doing a good job of rising to the occasion."

## Rondo goes to Chicago for 2 years, \$30M



CHICAGO (AP)—Rajon Rondo has a new beginning in Chicago, and the Bulls have a new starting point guard. The four-time All-Star agreed Sunday on a \$30 million, two-year deal, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no deal can be signed until the league's offseason moratorium ends on Thursday.

Rondo becomes the Bulls' replacement at point guard for Derrick Rose, the former NBA MVP who was traded to the New York Knicks last month.

Chicago becomes Rondo's fourth team in less than two years. He spent his 8 1/2 seasons in Boston, winning a championship with the Celtics in 2008. The Celtics traded him to Dallas in December 2014, and Rondo spent last season in Sacramento.

Rondo averaged 11.9 points and an NBA-best 11.7 assists with the Kings. Last season was the fourth in which Rondo averaged a double-double, and the first time he did so since 2012-13—the last of his four All-Star seasons with the Celtics.

Rondo had at least 10 assists in 51 of his 72 games with the Kings last season, including two games where he finished with 20 -- both of those against the Charlotte Hornets. He's going to a Bulls club that went 42-40 last season under then-rookie coach Fred Hoiberg as Chicago missed the playoffs for the first time in eight seasons.

Meanwhile, Deron Williams is re-upping with his hometown Dallas Mavericks, who are also bringing back promising young forward Dwight Powell.

Two people with knowledge of the deals said Sunday night that Williams has agreed to a one-year, \$10 million contract, while Powell is set for a four-year deal worth \$37 million. The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because contracts can't be signed before July 7.

Powell is a restricted free agent, which means Dallas could have matched any offer from another team.

The Mavericks are also trying to pry a restricted free agent from two-time Western Conference champion Golden State, with plans to sign Harrison Barnes to an offer sheet on a maximum contract

at four years and \$95 million. The Warriors could match the deal if they miss out in their pursuit of Kevin Durant.

The three agreements in a span of two days come after the Mavericks missed out on their top targets in free agency for the fifth consecutive year. Memphis guard Mike Conley and Miami center Hassan Whiteside decided to stay with their current teams, both on maximum contracts.

Barnes is a potential replacement for Chandler Parsons, who has an agreement on a max deal with Memphis after two seasons in Dallas.

The 32-year-old Williams will make twice what the former Dallas-area high school star made in his first season with the Mavericks. The point guard joined them after taking a buyout in Brooklyn.

While his time with the Nets was marked by moodiness and frequent injury issues, Williams left an impression on coach Rick Carlisle by trying to play through a sports hernia in a first-round playoff loss to Oklahoma City.

Williams, who had surgery after the season, played a big role in helping the Mavericks to their only win in the series in Game 2. He sat out the

third game trying to get ready to finish the series, but lasted just 89 seconds in a Game 4 loss at home. The Thunder won the series in five games.

Dallas' run of free agent futility started in 2012 with Williams, who was coming off his third straight All-Star season. He decided against coming home, choosing instead to stay with the Nets for their move from New Jersey to Brooklyn.

With the Nets looking for salary cap relief and buying out Williams' max contract before last season, he came back and helped take some sting out of the Mavericks losing DeAndre Jordan in free agency. The center had agreed to come to Dallas last summer before changing his mind and returning to the Los Angeles Clippers.

Williams reversed a three-year decline in scoring last season by averaging 14.1 points to go with a team-high 5.8 assists per game.

Powell, who turns 25 this month, is all Dallas has left to show for the ill-fated Rajon Rondo trade with Boston in December 2014. The Mavericks like his athleticism, and he is coming off career-high averages of 5.8 points and 4.0 rebounds in his fourth season.





# Nats reinstate Strasburg from DL list, top Reds



**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Stephen Strasburg was removed from a no-hit bid after 6 2/3 innings, and Ramon Cabrera singled against Matt Belisle leading off the eighth for Cincinnati's first hit in the Washington Nationals' 12-1 rout of the Reds on Sunday.

Activated from the disabled list before the game after missing two starts due to an upper back strain, Strasburg (11-0) threw 109 pitches, five shy of his season high. Strasburg has won a franchise-record 14 straight decisions and is the first NL starter to begin a season 11-0 since San Diego's Andy Hawkins in 1985.

Danny Espinosa homered twice, including his second grand slam in four games, and Wilson Ramos, Bryce Harper and Anthony Rendon hit solo homers.

John Lamb (1-5) allowed eight runs, eight hits and four walks in 4 1/3 innings. Cincinnati has lost 10 of 12.

## Marlins 5, Braves 2

In Fort Bragg, J.T. Realmuto homered and drove in two runs, Adam Conley pitched six strong innings and Miami beat Atlanta in a game played on a U.S. Army post.

Christian Yelich also finished with two RBI. He and Realmuto had run-scoring singles during a two-run fifth.

## Mets 14, Cubs 3

In New York, Wilmer Flores went 6 for 6 with two of New York's five home runs, and New York romped to a four-game sweep.

Jon Lester (9-4) gave up eight runs and nine hits in 1 1/3 innings, the shortest of his 301 career starts over 11 major league seasons.

## Blue Jays 17, Indians 1

In Toronto, Troy Tulowitzki

had three hits on his bobble-head day, including a three-run homer, and Russell Martin homered and drove in five runs.

Toronto scored its most runs since beating Tampa Bay 17-11 on Aug. 7, 2010, and the Blue Jays matched their season high with 18 hits.

## Red Sox 10, Angels 5

In Boston, Hanley Ramirez and Sandy Leon hit two-run doubles as Boston scored seven runs with two outs in the fifth.

A day after Boston lost 21-2 and allowed 22 hits, Sean O'Sullivan (2-0) held the Angels scoreless into the sixth and allowed two runs and four hits in five innings.

## Tigers 5, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Justin Upton snapped an eighth-inning tie with a two-run double, Ian Kinsler added his 200th homer and Detroit won its sixth straight.

Bruce Rondon (2-0) retired the only two batters he faced, bailing starter Mike Pelfrey out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh to get the victory. Matt Andriese (6-2) was the loser.

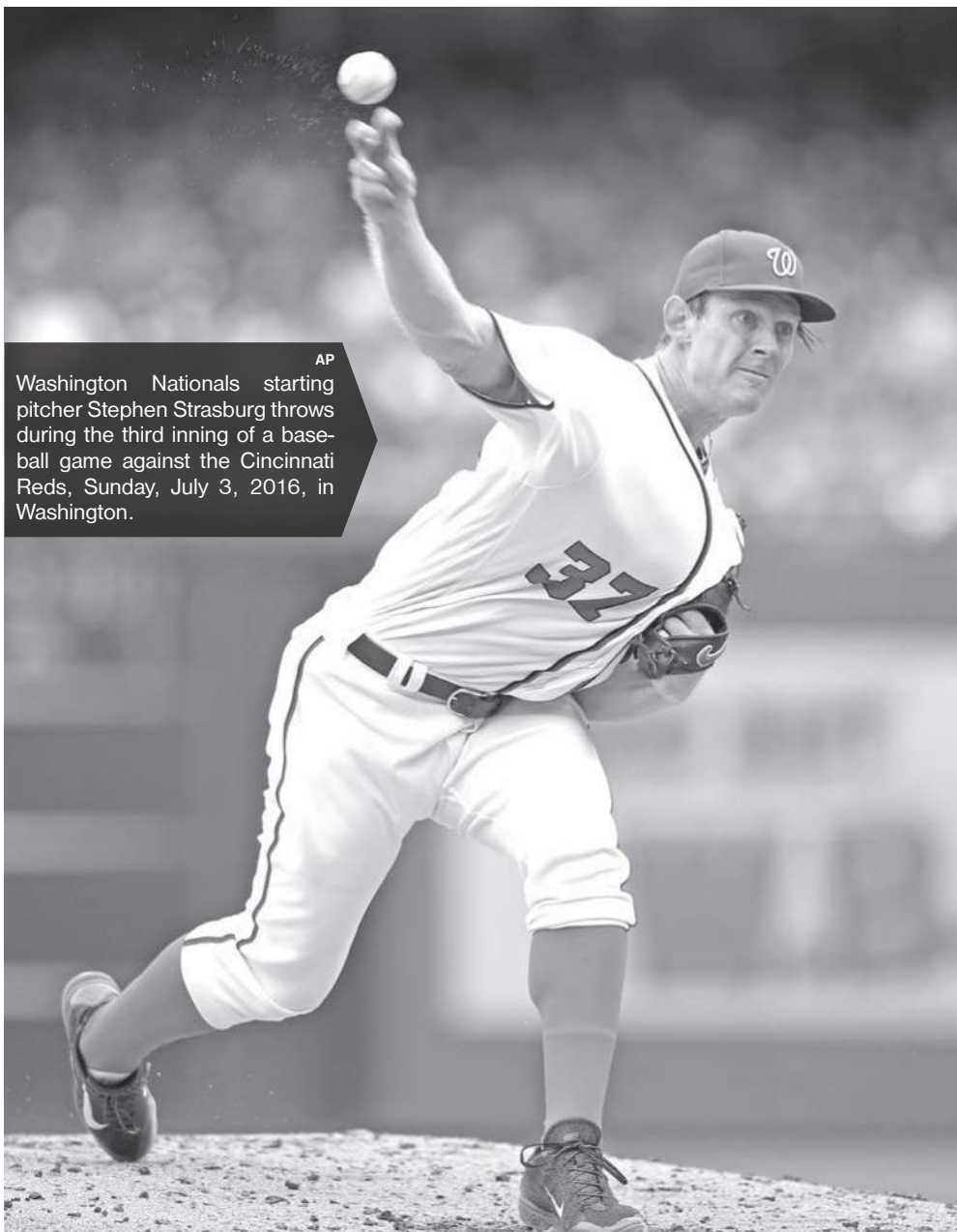
## Phillies 7, Royals 2

In Philadelphia, Cameron Rupp hit a three-run homer, Vince Velasquez (7-2) allowed two runs and five hits in five innings.

Cody Asche and Maikel Franco also went deep to help the Phillies win two of three against the defending World Series champions.

## Twins 5, Rangers 4

In Minneapolis, Cole Hamels (9-2) was knocked out in the fifth inning of his shortest start this season and lost for the first time since May 27 as last-place Minnesota beat first-place Texas for the second



AP  
Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg throws during the third inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds, Sunday, July 3, 2016, in Washington.

consecutive day.

Hamels allowed five runs and 10 hits while walking three, leaving after walking his first two batters in the fifth.

## White Sox 4, Astros 1

In Houston, Jose Quintana (6-8) allowed one run and two hits—including George Springer's homer—in seven innings for his first win since May 8. He had been 0-7 with a 4.58 ERA in his last nine starts.

Jose Abrey hit a go-ahead

single in the third off Collin McHugh (5-6), who gave up two runs and five hits in 5 2/3 innings and remained winless since May 30.

## Cardinals 9, Brewers 8

In St. Louis, Stephen Piscotty's second grand slam of the season propelled St. Louis to a rain-interrupted weekend sweep.

Brandon Moss had a go-ahead double in a two-run fifth, and rookie Aledmys Diaz hit his 11th homer.

## Mariners 9, Orioles 4

In Seattle, Seth Smith hit his first career grand slam, homering for the fourth straight game as Seattle completed a four-game sweep of the AL East leaders in which the Mariners had 31 runs and 47 hits, including 23 for extra bases.

Hisashi Iwakuma (8-6) allowed four runs and 10 hits in six-plus innings. Ubaldo Jimenez (5-8) gave up six runs and six hits in 4 1/3 innings.

## Yankees 6, Padres 3

In San Diego, Mark Teixeira hit his 400th and 401st home runs, Didi Gregorius also connected and Chad Green got his first big league victory as New York avoided a three-game sweep.

Green (1-1), a 25-year-old right-hander, held San Diego to one run and three hits in six innings, struck out eight and walked none. The rookie was recalled earlier Sunday from Triple-A.

## Dodgers 4, Rockies 1

In Los Angeles, back from Tommy John surgery, Brandon McCarthy (1-0) allowed a pair of singles over five scoreless innings and struck out eight in his first start in 14 months.

Trace Thompson and Yasmani Grandal homered for the Dodgers, who won their ninth straight home game and completed a three-game sweep. Kenley Jansen pitched a scoreless ninth for his 24th save.

## Pirates 6, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Adam Frazier tripled in the tying run against Daniel Mengden (1-4) in the sixth, then scored on Erik Kratz's infield single.

David Fries hit a two-run homer and Gregory Polanco added two RBI as the Pirates completed the three-game sweep in their first visit to the Oakland Coliseum since 2010.

## Giants 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, pinch-hitter Ramiro Pena hit a tiebreaking double off Enrique Burgos (0-1) in the 11th after Jarrett Parker's leadoff walk.

Josh Osich (1-1) pitched a scoreless 10th, and Santiago Casilla got his 19th save, stranding the potential tying run at third when

**AKRON, Ohio (AP)**—Dustin Johnson is making golf sound as easy as he makes it look.

There was nothing fancy about the way he went about his work Sunday in the Bridgestone Invitational, where he rallied from a three-shot deficit against the world's No. 1 player to win in his first start since capturing his first major at the U.S. Open.

He drives it great. His wedge game has been his biggest improvement. He finally is making some putts.

Is it really that simple?

"I mean, yeah," Johnson replied.

Late last year, he decided to abandon his natural draw off the tee and switch to a fade because he thought he would hit more fairways.

## Johnson rallies past Day to win Bridgestone Invitational

"I got tired of hitting hooks," he said.

When asked if it was his choice or a recommendation from his coaches, Johnson said he wanted to make the change and his coaches didn't really care which shape he hit the driver "as long as I hit it straight."

So was the change in his swing or the way he sets up to the ball?

"You'll have to ask my coach," he said.

It's been a winning combination, especially in his last two tournaments. Two weeks ago at Oakmont, he overcame a four-shot deficit to win the U.S. Open, even though he wasn't sure of his score over the final two hours because the

USGA couldn't make up its mind whether to assess a penalty for a ball moving.

On Sunday, it took him 16 holes to wipe out a three-shot deficit against Jason Day, and then Johnson took over from there.

He blasted a 9-iron out of the deep rough to 15 feet and made birdie to take the lead for the first time all week, right about the time Day was making an utter mess of the par-5 16th hole.

Day tried to play it safe off the tee on the 655-yard hole, knowing he couldn't get home in two, and instead hooked his tee shot behind two thick fir trees. He blasted through

branches and across the fairway, and then tried to get it just left of the green with a punch shot that wasn't hit hard enough, or far enough left. It rolled into the side of the water, leading to double bogey.

"Sometimes you take risks and it doesn't pay off," said Day, who didn't hit a green on his last six holes and closed with a 72.

Johnson made six birdies in his round of 4-under 66 and wound up winning by one shot over Scott Piercy, who made birdie on the final hole for a 70. It was the second straight time Piercy was runner-up to Johnson, and there was some

consolation that they were at the U.S. Open and a World Golf Championship.

"We all know how good DJ is, and he's shown it the last weeks," Piercy said. "To be nipping at his heels makes me feel good. ... We want to win being out there, and knowing that I came as close as I did, not having my best stuff is a positive, as well."

Day tied for third with Jordan Spieth, Matt Kuchar and Kevin Chappell.

Only nine players finished under par, the fewest number at Firestone since Tiger Woods was the only player under par in 2007. Johnson finished at 6-under 274, the highest winning score since Woods in 2005.

And there was one other connection to Woods - they now are the only two players to win three of the four World Golf Championships. Johnson won the Cadillac Championship at Doral last year and the HSBC Champions in Shanghai in 2013.

Johnson narrowly moved past Spieth to a career-best No. 2 in the world. He moved to the top of the FedEx Cup, and is No. 1 on the money list with over \$6.5 million.

And he can't wait to get to the British Open at Royal Troon in two weeks.

"It's the first time I've won two tournaments in a row," Johnson said. "I mean, that's big. I'm excited and looking forward to going over to the British with the golf game in good form."





# Ronaldo vs Bale: Portugal plays Wales in semis

LYON, France (AP)—When Portugal and Wales face off for a spot in the final of the European Championship, two players will be expected to rise far above the rest.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale, club teammates at Real Madrid and the most expensive players in the history of the sport, will bear the hopes of their nations on Wednesday night at Stade de Lyon.

None of the previous 48 matches played at Euro 2016 has pitted two players of such unequaled star status and undisputed importance to their teams.

The stage, fittingly enough, could hardly be bigger. The winner will earn a spot in the July 10 final at Saint-Denis against either world champion Germany or tournament host France.

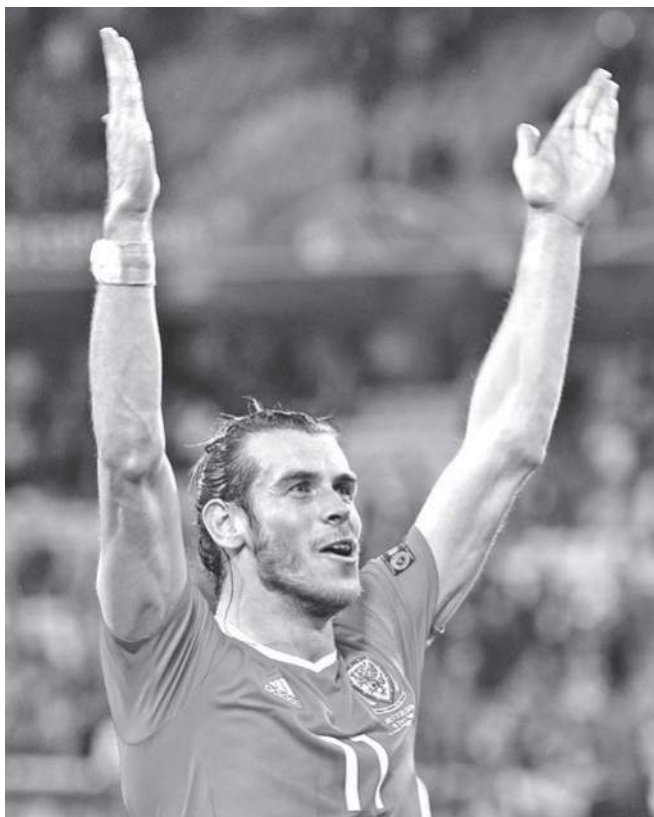
"Two of the best players on the planet," Wales coach Chris Coleman said. "I don't suppose there will be any love lost on the evening. We know what's at stake, any friendship will have to wait until after the game."

Less than six weeks ago, Ronaldo and Bale joined in celebrations after winning a second Champions League trophy in their three seasons together at Real Madrid.

Since moving to Spain on a record \$100-million (then \$132-million) transfer that broke Madrid's own deal for Ronaldo, Bale has always played the role of deferential sidekick to the three-time world player of the year.

The match in Lyon now offers Bale the perfect stage to challenge that hierarchy. A standout performance by one could even tip the Ballon d'Or vote in his favor.

Bale arrives in better form than Ronaldo. The Wales winger is among the competition's top scorers with three goals (only France's Antoine



Wales' Gareth Bale celebrates at the end of the Euro 2016 quarterfinal soccer match between Wales and Belgium, at the Pierre Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq, near Lille, France, Friday, July 1, 2016.

Griezmann has more with four), including two goals from free kicks.

Bale's unheralded team is also riding a huge high after the most important victory in its history: a 3-1 come-from-behind win to oust Belgium in the quarterfinals.

Best of all for Coleman, his side roared back against the Belgians without needing a goal from Bale. Captain Ashley Williams started the rally that Hal Robson-Kanu and Sam Vokes completed.

It means that Wales has taken the label of underdog fan favorite from Iceland after its fairytale run was ended by France on Sunday.

That was the latest milestone for an ascendant Wales. Ranked outside the top 100

four years ago, Bale scored seven goals in qualifying to carry Wales into its first major competition since the 1958 World Cup. Once in France, it defied expectations by finishing ahead of neighbor England to win its group. It then topped that by becoming the first debutante to reach the semifinals since Sweden in 1992.

And Wales has made its run in style, deploying one of the best attacks at the tournament.

With Bale leading the way, it is second only to France with 10 goals scored and joins the hosts as the only teams to have won four matches outright, not counting victories from penalty shootouts.

Portugal, by contrast, has clawed its way into its fourth semifinal in the last five tour-



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo calls for referee's attention during the Euro 2016 quarterfinal soccer match between Poland and Portugal, at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille, France, Thursday, June 30, 2016.

naments. Having squeezed into the last 16 after three draws at the group stage, it needed a victory in extra time against Croatia and then penalties to get past Poland.

Across its five matches—and more than eight hours of football—Portugal has been in the lead for a total of only 22 minutes at Euro 2016.

A big part of Portugal's problems has been Ronaldo's performances, which have been below his incredibly high standards.

Ronaldo's two goals against Hungary are his only two strikes in five matches at the tournament. While Bale leads all players with 13 shots on target, Ronaldo has the inglorious statistic of a competition-high 14 shots off the mark.

"If Cristiano Ronaldo doesn't score, it doesn't mean

he isn't playing well and doing other things," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said in defense of his forward. "Cristiano

## SONICS

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can players, saved the best for last, outgunning the Sonics in the final frame, 33-19.

"The court has a slippery wooden floor and the boys could not get their feet set. We kept close with SPC but our boys could not find their shot and footing yesterday (Saturday) morning just a few hours after were arrived in Laguna at 2am. SPC's Ameri-

## LEE

From Page 28

14-year-old added 20 ranking points to her credit following a finals appearance in the 2016 Oceania Open Junior Championships in Fiji last week. Lee challenged No. 1 seed Kaitlin Staines of Australia in the singles title match and lost, 4-6, 1-6 for another runner-up finish in an ITF Juniors ranking tournament.

Lee's other second place finish was recorded in the Open Junior BNP PARIBAS de Nouvelle-Caledonie as she also faced a Land Down Under bet in Lisa Mays, who notched a 6-4, 6-3 victory over the CNMI player. Lee now has a 115 rankings points (combined), getting 105 in singles and 40 in doubles. She gained 5 points in doubles (with Ayana Rengiil of Palau) in the Oceania contest in Fiji and 15 (runner-up) in the New Caledonia event.

Meanwhile, Tan and Heras

no Ronaldo is an example as captain of this side. He's doing a great job. He wants to win."

If Ronaldo does score, he will match Michel Platini's record of nine goals at the European Championship.

Portugal will be without suspended holding midfielder William Carvalho. Danilo, who lost his starting job to Carvalho after Portugal drew 1-1 with Iceland in their opener, will likely be back in the lineup.

A potentially much bigger hole for Santos to fill could be at centerback. Pepe didn't train on Monday because of a thigh muscle problem. The Real Madrid defender has been Portugal's best man at the back by far at the competition.

Wales will have to cope with the important absences of midfielder Aaron Ramsey and defender Ben Davies, who both earned one-game suspensions for yellow cards against Belgium.

Andy King, a member of the Leicester squad that won the Premier League last season title against all the odds, could take Ramsey's place.

can player dunk twice against us," Tudela said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Prince Factor and Jack Aranda top-scored in the Sonics' debut loss, registering 12 points each, while Rabasto contributed 10, including the team's last 7 markers.

"We played better against Hugot in our second game. Next up is the championship game against SPC, which is the best team in Laguna," Tudela said.

got 5 ranking points each for winning in the Round of 16 against Australia's Australia's Luciana Kunkel and Mia Katharina Savio in the Grade 5 tournament in Noumea, 7-6 (4), 6-3. The 15-year-old Tan, who competed in six singles tournament and five doubles beginning last year before earning ranking points, is at No. 2, 214. The ITF Juniors ranking was an advanced gift to Tan, who celebrated her birthday last July 1.

Heras, who began her campaign in the ITF Juniors just this May, shared the same rankings. She recorded two wins in the doubles as part of the Pacific Oceania Touring Team after teaming up with the U.S.' Bryn Johnson and prevailing against Japan's Sachiko Sho and Kaede Tada, 6-2, 6-2, in the Round of 32 in the 2016 Oceania Open Junior Championships. The 15-year-old Heras, however, dropped her and Johnson's quarterfinal match to miss more ITF Juniors ranking points.

## CNMI'S

From Page 28

mental breakdown.

Guam's strong start in the winner-take-all finale threatened the CNMI's bid for a perfect run in the four-nation tournament. The Commonwealth bets swept the three games in the preliminary round and made it four in a row after beating Guam in the first semis match last Thursday. The home team cruised to a 14-5 victory over Guam in the prelims and had another easy win in the semis, 15-5.

The CNMI was then up for a big surprise in the early part of the finale, as catcher Miller Santos towed Guam to a 13-2 advantage after four complete innings. Santos went 3-for-3 in that stretch, which was

highlighted by his two-run homer in the second inning.

The CNMI, on the other hand had a 1-2-3 inning from the second to fourth inning, as Guam Jay Taijeron had a steady performance on the mound and his teammates also held their ground on defense. Brian Camacho provided the lone bright spot for the CNMI's offense, hitting a two-run single in the first inning.

"We struggled at bat early, but the coaching staff told the players to remain focus on their shots. We told them to keep trying," Lizama said.

After putting the CNMI on the board, Camacho made only one hit (a single) and was struck out twice in his next three trips at the plate before blasting a pivotal solo homer

at the bottom of the ninth inning to jumpstart the team's comeback bid.

"That was my first home run of the season and I am glad it came at the right time," Camacho said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the thrilling match.

"That (homer) started it all. It pumped up the boys," Lizama said.

Camacho's solo HR was followed by Juan, Lamarc, and Jesus Iguel's RBI single each, while Ben Jones made the game-tying hit, bringing home Jesus. Jones was eventually left stranded at first after Guam finally got the third out and the title match had to be decided in the 10th inning.

Juan went on to score the winning run in the extra inning, thanks to Verlance Se-



# CNMI vs Macau in E-1 Football Championship 2017 Round 1

PHOTOS By GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Members of the CNMI Women's National Team show their respect as the CNMI anthem is played before their game against Macau in the EAFF E-1 Football Championship 2017 Round 1 last Friday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.



The CNMI Women's National Team players and Macau's bets make their way to the pitch.



The CNMI's Gillian Villagomez faces several Macau defenders.



CNMI captain Gabrielle Race, left, exchanges pennants with her counterpart in Macau.



The CNMI's Dianne Pablo, right, tries to keep up with Macau's Iok Wa Fong.



Macau's Ka Mei Sio, left, keeps a close eye on the CNMI's Alexa Vergara.



The CNMI's Taylor Knecht, center, kicks the ball.



The CNMI's Gabrielle Race is hounded by Macau defenders.



The CNMI's Mikky Vargas makes the throw-in.



The CNMI's Jeralyn Castillo attempts a shot after slipping past a Macau defender.





Serena  
gets 300th  
Slam win at  
Wimbledon

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Nats reinstate  
Strasburg  
from DL list,  
top Reds

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2016

# CNMI's persistence pays off

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

It ain't over till it's over.

That was the battle cry of the CNMI All-Stars as they worked their way up from a double-digit deficit against Guam and eked out a come-from-behind 15-14 win in their title showdown in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield last Friday.

"We were down all throughout the game, but I kept reminding the boys not to give up because the game is not yet over. Although Guam was leading by a big margin, I told them we still have a chance and we



just have to play together," manager Henry Lizama said moments after

his wards stole the championship from Guam in extra inning as their foes had a monu-

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## Lee moves up; Tan, Heras join ITF Juniors ranking list



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tania Tan, seen here in action during the 2016 CNMI National Junior Championships held in April at the AMP tennis courts, earned ITF Juniors ranking points.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI has two more players on the ITF Juniors ranking list, while Carol Lee continued to climb up to the ladder.

Tania Tan and Isabel Heras received their ranking points from the Open Junior BNP PARIBAS de Nouvelle-Caledonie held in Noumea, New Caledonia last month to join Lee on the

elite roster of U18 players in the world.

Lee, who finished the 2015 season at No. 748 and was still in the 700 list when she,



Tan, and Heras left Saipan to compete in a series of tournaments in Fiji and New Caledonia, is now at No. 510 ((based on the June 27, 2016 ranking list posted at the ITF Juniors website). The

See LEE on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ben Jones, right, exchanges high-fives with Brian Camacho, right, and manager Henry Lizama after beating Guam, 15-14, in the finals of the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

## Sonics enter finals of PH caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The 670 Sonics made it to the finals of the Inaugural 670 Sonics-Laguna Philippines Friendship Basketball Tour-

nament after completing the round-robin elimination with a 2-1 record.

The Sonics, who lost their debut against San Pablo College, 102-71, last Saturday defeated Hugot in their next match on the same day, 82-75, and won over Lipa (via forfei-

ture) last Sunday to move into the finale. The visiting team was scheduled to challenge SPC in yesterday's title game and results of the match were unavailable at press time.

Jaymark De Guzman and Jack Aranda teamed up in lifting the Sonics past Hugot at the

Brgy. Del Remedio court in San Pablo, Laguna. The team's 1-2 punch scored 19 points each with Aranda tallying 12 from downtown and De Guzman knocking 6 from beyond the arc. The Sonics had a good shooting night, burying eight triples with Mike Arciaga and Sean Rabasto adding one apiece.

With the Sonics on target, they led at the end of each quarter, withstanding Hugot's repeated comeback bids.

Gerald Flores was the third double figure scorer for the Sonics, chipping in 10, while Arciaga finished with 9.

Jay Cabrillios led Hugot with his 19 points.

Meanwhile, the Sonics had a sluggish start in the short tournament after bowing to SPC at the Laguna State Polytechnic University.

Tudela's wards kept up with SPC only in the first quarter, facing a manageable deficit, 18-26, before falling behind by a big margin in the last three periods. SPC, which is reinforced by two tall Ameri-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 670 Sonics players and their officials pose for a photo before playing against Hugot in the Inaugural 670 Sonics-Laguna Philippines Friendship Basketball Tournament in San Pablo, Laguna, Philippines last Saturday.

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